



Cartoons,
chalk,
caricatures,
oh my!

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Following Ang Lee's
new flick

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Cat's meow in fashion



Top designers took their
trendiest threads to the
catwalk for China
Fashion Week. The
show offered a window
today into the trends of
tomorrow.

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Opinions mixed on holiday shuffle

By Huang Daoheng

The weeklong online poll, opened last Friday to gauge public opinion the controversial draft proposal about that will legally amend the national holidays, ended yesterday with the majority of netizens' approving.

The three-day May Day holiday will be chopped to one day, while for the first time, the Tomb-sweeping Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festivals will become national vacations, according

to the draft prepared by a special panel.

New Year's Day will still be a holiday, as well as Spring Festival and National Day – each lasting three days. However, Spring Festival's holiday will start from the Lunar New Year's Eve instead of from New Year's Day.

The amendment will bump the number of legal holidays from 10 to 11, giving workers one more paid day off each year.

However, no exact date for the announcement and implementa-

tion of the new plan was given. Earlier reports said the proposal may be enacted in time for the 2008 Spring Festival.

During the weeklong online poll, nearly 1.85 million netizens have responded to a public survey organized by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

As many as 80 percent said they supported shortening the May Day holiday to one day and upgrading three traditional festivals to national holidays,

according to the Xinhua net, one of the official websites for the public poll.

Concerns about traffic, low-quality tourist services and damage to scenic spots during the Golden Weeks lent support to the proposal.

However, online discussion boards showed far more mixed opinion. Online, the overwhelming majority was dissatisfied with canceling the May Day holiday and was not even close to the support reflected in polls.

Migrant workers in the capital were those most in opposition to the proposal.

"I'll be very disappointed if the May Day holiday is canceled," Li Rui, a migrant worker from Zhejiang Province, said. "I don't care about the traffic, and I don't mind waiting in a long queue to get a train ticket. I just want to go home to see my family."

"Having only a one-day holiday would mean no holiday to me, because returning home will be impossible," Li said.

Medals unveiled for Paralympic Games

By He Jianwei

The Beijing Olympic Games organizers unveiled Paralympic Games medals Wednesday.

A jade disc set into the obverse of each Beijing Paralympic medal and the emblem of the Beijing Paralympic Games is found in the center of the jade disc, a design which emulates the style of the Olympic medals.

The jade color varies with each medal: white jade for the gold, gray-white jade for the silver and gray jade for the bronze.

The design of the medal hook is drawn from jade *huang*, a ceremonial piece decorated with a double dragon pattern, and *pu*, a reed mat pattern. On the reverse is the emblem of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the name of the event and "Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games" in Chinese, English and Braille, Hang Hai, one of the designers from the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), said.

The gold and silver medals are made with a pure silver core and no less than 6 grams of gold plating.

"The design of the medals is inspired by the ancient Chinese dragon-pattern jade disc: a jade disc wedged on the obverse of the medal with the Emblem of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games in the center," Hang said.

"The Paralympic medals have the same value and honor as those for the Olympic Games, and are a perfect symbol for the slogan 'One World One Dream,'" Zhao Dongming, director of BOCOG Cultural



Yang Bozun, a disabled athlete, shows off a gold medal at the Beijing Olympic Media Center on Wednesday at the launching ceremony.

CFP Photo

Activities Department, said.

The medal designers come from the CAFA, the Academy of Fine Arts at Tsinghua University and China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation.

Jade craft has an 8,000-year tradition in China. Carved discs used to be a ritual ware for grand ceremonies in ancient

China, and the stone is a cultural symbol for morality.

"The jade on the Paralympic medals is a symbol of our recognition of the winners and a modern interpretation of the traditional values of Chinese people. It is the perfect union of Chinese civilization and the Paralympic Spirit," Zhao said.

Anti-doping agency to ensure clean Games

By Jiang Xubo

The government formally opened its high-tech anti-doping agency on Monday in a bid to ensure a clean Olympic Games next year.

The agency is expected to conduct 4,500 doping tests at the Beijing Olympics Games, up from 3,600 from the tests done in Athens, Du Lijun, the center's director, said.

Du said his agency was "in full swing" to prepare for the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) inspection in the next few weeks.

The agency will set up 40 workshops at Olympic venues to collect samples, which will then be passed to the agency for

tests under supervision from the IOC's watchdog.

The agency has 20 regular staff members to conduct daily tests. During the Games, the staff will be joined by 20 foreign experts, 60 volunteers with professional backgrounds from national medical test institutions, including the Health Ministry's test department and the Beijing Public Security Bureau's Forensic Medical Examination Center, and 50 medicine and chemistry majors from Tsinghua University and Peking University.

"The World Anti-dope Agency (WADA) will update its annual List of Prohibited Substances next year, and we will conduct the tests in accordance with WADA's

requirements," Du said.

The agency is expected to begin operations at the end of next July, when the Olympic village opens.

The agency occupies a new, four-story lab in the National Olympic Sports Center that Du called "the biggest anti-doping facility in the world among 31 facilities of its kind, with the most advanced equipment."

"The government invested US \$10 million in the agency, including the building and the test equipment, to prepare it for doping tests, especially some new tests," Du said.

The agency is expected to take a leading role in national anti-doping education.

Brief news

Diabetes on the rise

More than 20 million people across the country have developed diabetes, and another 20 million suffer from impaired glucose tolerance, a pre-diabetic state, Qi Xiaoqiu, director of the Ministry of Health's disease control and prevention department, said Wednesday.

Diseases claims 666

Infectious diseases caused 666 deaths across the country last month. Health officials recorded 418,000 cases of such diseases in the period, with rabies, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, AIDS and hepatitis C being the top five killers, a spokesman for the Ministry of Health said Monday.

More FDI

The country utilized US \$54 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the

first 10 months of the year, up 11 percent over the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce announced on Monday.

2,000 IPR infringement cases

Customs authorities uncovered 1,914 cases of intellectual property right (IPR) infringement during the first three quarters of this year. Damages involved 230 million yuan, according to a report released by General Administration of Customs this week.

Housing costs still soar

Housing prices in 70 major Chinese cities leaped 9.5 percent last month over the same period last year, according to a report by the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Development and Reform Commission.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Beijing checks stores after Carrefour's deadly stampede

By Han Manman

Beijing ordered checks on its supermarkets and urged local franchises to take precautions to prevent a repeat of a stampede which killed three and injured 31 at a Chongqing Carrefour last Saturday, Xu Kang, from the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Commerce, said.

The bureau would begin spot-checks this week and focus on the local supermarkets which have upcoming promotions. The details of the inspections will be released soon, Xu said.

Limited time offers banned

China's Ministry of Commerce issued an urgent circular on Monday banning limited-time offers in shops and ordered local authorities across China to overhaul safety requirements in shops to prevent similar occurrences.

"In order to eliminate safety concerns, companies are required not to organize time-limited sales

promotions which may lead to traffic congestion, bodily harm and disorderly conduct," the circular said.

It also ordered local branches to help store managers foster safety awareness and establish emergency-response procedures.

Compensation

Carrefour has not issued a comment on Saturday's accident, and no compensatory agreement has been reached. It only said the company executives have gone to Chongqing "to cooperate with the local government in an investigation into the accident and compensate the victims."

Wang Qiaolu, who lost her aunt, told the *Legal Mirror* that Carrefour agreed to pay 350,000 yuan compensation after four negotiation sessions. The signing, originally scheduled for Wednesday morning, has been postponed. Wang said she was not clear on how the other families of the vic-

tims will be compensated, and "they were arranged into different hotels."

According to *Chengdu Business News*, the compensation for the family of Yang Suxiu, a victim, were stalled due to disagreement.

Yang's relative Xu Sheng said if an agreement is not reached, he will file a lawsuit.

All the injured are recovering, and some have been discharged from hospital, Gao Chang, a spokesman for the Shapingba District government, said.

The stampede tragedy

The stampede was triggered by a promotion at the Carrefour outlet on November 10 in Shapingba District in Chongqing Municipality.

The three-day promotion was launched to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the French retail giant's entry into the city.

The shop offered 11.5 yuan off on a 51.4-yuan bottle of cooking

oil. A large crowd formed outside the store starting from 4 am and continued to grow until the market opened at 8:40 am. The shoppers rushed in at once and trampled each other in the process.

"The outlet has been ordered to suspend operations, and the work safety watchdog has started an investigation," Gao said.

Similar cases

Public disturbances resulting from discounted or free item promotions and leading to injury and death have occurred in a number of cities across the country.

Earlier this year, 15 were injured in a similar sales promotion at a Shanghai Baoshanle supermarket.

Five were injured in a Chengdu Carrefour opening ceremony promotion in 2005.

Two seniors died and three seriously injured in Wuhan in 2003 when a local pharmacy held a promotional offer for medicines.



The special force exercised in public for the first time since 2000.

CFP Photo

Numbers show anti-kidnapping force a success

By Jiang Xubo

The first 10 months of the year saw a dramatic drop in kidnapping cases thanks to the capital's new anti-kidnapping task force, a spokesman for the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau said Tuesday.

The force, part of the capital's police, was able to solve 90 percent of kidnapping cases filed between January and October. The capital saw a 50 percent decrease in kidnapping incidents over the same time, the spokesman said.

"We are 100 percent capable of solving any kidnapping case and rescuing hostages without hurting them as long as people call the police in time and offer full cooperation," Zhang Limin, chief of the anti-kidnapping task force, said.

The conference, which featured the special force's first public exercise since its establishment in 2000, showcased driving techniques and sniping skills at a training center in the Beijing People's Police College.

The force has 50 members, and its team is kept on standby 24 hours a day and is able to fully arm and depart for action within three minutes.

Force members are divided into panels when on duty, and negotiation experts are key members of each panel.

"Eight officers on the team were awarded certificates for crisis negotiation after they received training from the Hong Kong Police. They are good at calming suspects. In some cases, negotiations alone can solve the problem before the police take further measures," Zhang said.

All anti-kidnapping officers are able to fire one-hit killing shots after intensive shooting exercises, which they received in regular closed training courses twice a year.

In one case, which was made public for the first time at the conference, a 13-year-old boy, surnamed Zhang, was kidnapped on his way to school in Xuanwu District in March. When the suspected kidnappers demanded a two million yuan ransom, the father called the police.

The anti-kidnapping force tracked down the suspects' car within eight hours. Officers shot out its tires during a high speed pursuit, forcing the driver to halt. The police arrested all three suspects and rescued the boy.

Surplus of 18 million marriageable males

The country currently has an imbalance of 18 million more males at a marriageable age than it has females, due to a severely imbalanced birth ratio which has persisted since the 1980s, the country's family planning authorities said.

The birth ratio in rural areas is 122.85:100, higher than the national average of 119.58:100, as compared with the normal sex ratio of 103 to 107:100, Zhang Weiqing, National Population and Family Planning Commission director, said.

By 2020, planners expect there to be 30 million more males ages 20 and 45 than females, he said at a rural population and family planning conference in Zhengzhou, Henan Province.

Rural families still prefer boys as agricultural production still relies on manual labor, Zhang said.

The government will continue to crack down on illegal prenatal sex selection and will try to help people discard traditional ideas of a preference for boys, the official said.

Zhang said urgent problems regarding investment and services lay with rural family planning administrations.

"Lack of financial support for family planning work is widespread in rural areas," he said.

Currently, basic free contraception control services are not provided in some areas, which directly leads to a rebound in births, Zhang said.

He said it was urgent to make preferential social and economic policies more conducive to the implementation of family planning work. (Xinhua)

French buffoons bring laughter



Two French women clowns offered a voluntary performance for children on Wednesday in a local facility for children who suffer from infantile autism in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. The facility, which was set up eight years ago, hosted some 50 children now, aged between three and 17.

CFP Photo

Rome graduate swaps crucifix for Buddha

By Jiang Xubo

An Italian man converted to Buddhism at a temple in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province last Saturday.

Lucas, 28, who refused to give his family name, became the first foreign monk in the Xuanzang Temple after he proved his qualification in a one-year observation period. The observation put more than his knowledge of Buddhism and his Chinese language skills to test.

"It requires courage to accept a foreigner as an apprentice," his teacher and abbot Master Chuanzhen said. "Lucas grew up in a Christian culture in his own country for over twenty years. We had to determine whether he could truly turn away from Christianity and convert to Buddhism. Besides, we had to make sure he could adjust to

traditional daily life in the temple."

"I was warned many times that life as a monk is quite a trial," Lucas said, "For example I can't get married according to the doctrines of Buddhism. But I still accept it."

Chuanzhen gave Lucas the Chinese name Yixuan, which combined the word for Italy with the name Xuanzang, a noted Buddhist monk during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD). Xuanzang went to India, where the religion originated, to retrieve Buddhist scriptures — an act which increased interaction between China and India.

"I will work hard to study Buddhism in the temple and do my part to promote Buddhism and its culture for the good of the people," Lucas said.

However, as a foreign monk,

Lucas had an extra job to do — he might have to return to his country early next year to reapply for his visa, which will expire next June, Chuanzhen said.

Lucas graduated from the University of Rome with a degree in public relations and came to China two years ago. During his stay in Nanjing, he visited the temple a few times to learn more about Buddhism. The temple is noted for being the resting side of Xuanzang's skull.

Foreign nationals are guaranteed freedom to participate in religious activities in places of worship, including Buddhist temples and Taoist shrines, according to regulations on overseas people's religious activities, which was issued in 1994 by the State Council.

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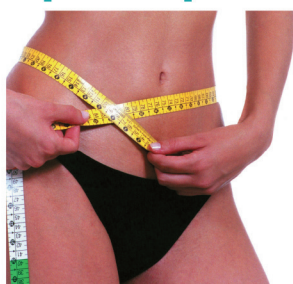
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Toning and Sculpting Problem Areas by Removing Excess Fat with Liposculpture



1. What is Liposculpture?

Liposculpture or laser lipolysis is a clinically proven, innovative technique designed specifically for the removal of excess fat and localised fat deposits, including fatty areas that are normally resistant to dieting and physical exercise. The procedure is performed using an Nd:YAG laser with very short pulses and very high peak of power, in order to avoid tissue heating.

Advantages:

- minimally invasive; the

procedure is performed through very small incisions, using 1 mm diameter micro-cannulas

- minimal trauma
- simultaneous coagulation of blood vessels resulting in less blood loss
- laser action also stimulates collagen production, resulting in gradual skin tightening over the treated area
- faster recovery

2. Is the treatment safe?

Yes. There are no major side effects. The treatment specifically targets fat cells. The precise positioning of the cannula can be assessed via trans-illumination from a red guiding beam (visible through the skin). There is no damage to major vessels, nerves or other tissue structures, with minimal blood loss.

3. Is the treatment suitable for me?

There is no limitation on the area to be treated. Even areas that were previously considered as unsuitable for traditional liposuction, eg face, chin, arms, upper abdomen, and knees, can be treated by laser lipolysis. Localised collections of fatty tissue, for example at the hips, knees, 'love handles', upper or lower abdomen, double chins etc, can be treated with great effect, hence the term 'liposculpture'.

4. How long does the treatment take?

The procedure can take 1-2 hours, depending on the area being treated and the amount of fatty tissue present.

5. Is the treatment painful? What sort of anaesthesia is used?

The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia (avoiding the risks associated with general anaesthesia), and so is generally painless, although the client will feel movement of the cannula under the skin. Once the local anaesthesia has worn off, mild discomfort may be experienced for 1-2 days, which generally can be controlled with mild oral analgesics eg paracetamol.

6. How many treatments will I need?

For localised fat deposits, usually only one treatment session is needed. For larger areas of fat volume, the procedure may be repeated.

7. Are the results permanent?

Yes, the resultant effect is permanent (when combined with dietary modification and regular physical exercise) as the laser destroys the cell membrane of the affected fat cells. The released contents of the fat cells are eliminated naturally via the lymphatic system; faster results are seen if gentle

suction is performed at the end of the laser procedure.

8. How long is the recovery time?

Most clients can return to work and normal activities within 24 hours of the laser lipolysis procedure. Wearing a comfortable compression garment during the day for a couple of weeks will further minimise any swelling or bruising, and assist in the natural elimination of the released fat cell contents. Faster elimination of the released fat cell contents can also be achieved by promoting lymphatic circulation eg using the Cellu M6 Keymodule system or the Triactive System. It is advisable to avoid strenuous exercise and spa/sauna for two weeks after the procedure.

Meet our doctor...



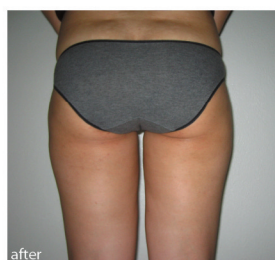
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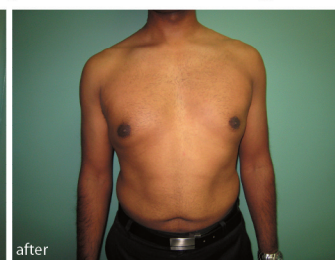
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- pixel skin resurfacing
- lasers/IPL for skin tightening, small vessels, hair removal, skin pigmentation
- laser tattoo removal
- mesotherapy
- chemical peels



before after
Liposculpture on Hips



before after
Liposculpture on Male Breast



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China to relax ban on HIV/AIDS carriers entering the country

(AFP) – China plans to relax rules that currently bar HIV/AIDS carriers from entering the country, the health ministry said Monday.

Ministry spokesman Mao Qun'an said the decision was based on current knowledge of the way the AIDS virus spreads. But he did not disclose when the new rules would take effect, or if the relaxation would mean a complete end to the former limit.

China had 650,000 HIV/AIDS patients, according to an estimate put forward by the government, in January 2006.

Mao said the government would release its latest estimate of the number of people having HIV/AIDS in China at the end of November.

Local voice

By Huang Daohen

Though no details or specific actions were spelled out during the Tuesday news briefing, the change was front-page news in major Chinese daily newspapers.

"The lifting of the ban will help create a less discriminating environment for HIV/AIDS sufferers, who will be more willing to cooperate with the authorities for treatment and control efforts," Wu Zunyou, director of the National Centre for AIDS/STD Prevention and Control, was quoted by the China Daily as saying.

The decision marks a major

step in the country's attempt to remove some of the stumbling blocks it has encountered since opening its doors to international conferences and world-wide events, Wu said.

He said the decision to change the law reflected the gradual process China has gone through to better understand how the disease is transmitted and the risks it poses.

The amendment was welcomed by foreigners living and working in Beijing. "The decision will cause no harm to China, because most people with HIV/AIDS are harmless, and will not

spread the virus deliberately," Jeff Johansson, a teacher at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said.

Most countries allow people with HIV/AIDS to enter, he said.

China issued its Law on the Control of the Entry and Exit of Aliens in 1985. Foreigners with HIV/AIDS, venereal disease and open tuberculosis, are banned from entering China, according to the Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Administration of Entry and Exit of Foreigners, revised in July 1994.

China denies Olympics-related media blacklist

(AFP) – Beijing Olympic organizers said Tuesday they were building a database on foreign journalists, but the government denied plans for a Games-related media crackdown.

Li Zhanjun, director of the Beijing Olympic organizing committee's (BOCOG) media centre, said a database was being drawn up to help foreign journalists working on the Olympics.

"The major purpose is to provide better service to the media, it is not to monitor the press or threaten anyone," said Li.

"There is no blacklist and there is no monitoring. Our policy concerning the coverage of the Olympic Games is really very open and very transparent."

China successfully tests Everest mobile phone station

(AFP) – A Mount Everest mobile phone base has had a successful test run, meaning climbers will stay in range of calls and text messages on top of the world's highest peak, Chinese media reported Wednesday.

The station at 6,500 metres (21,450 feet) was also built to help communications for the bearers of the Olympic torch, which Beijing 2008 Games organizers plan to carry to Everest's summit, the state-run China Daily said.

The station's key equipment was immediately packed away after the test for the harsh Tibetan winter and will be reassembled in time for the torch visit expected in May next year, Xinhua news agency reported.

The station, run by China Mobile, the country's largest mobile phone service provider, is the world's highest cell phone base, the reports said.

It was "incredibly difficult" to build as oxygen levels at the site were only 38 percent of those at sea level, the carrier's general manager Wang Jianzhou was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

China tests tube surgery alternative to vasectomy

(Reuters) – Chinese doctors have developed a new technique in birth control surgery for men that could be made available to the public next year, the China Daily said on Thursday.

The method involves making a small incision along the testicle into which doctors place a tiny tube.

"The tube functions as a filter that blocks sperm," Wu Weixiong, the director of Guangzhou Family Planning Technology Centre, said.

The technique, which is reversible by simply taking out the tube, had been patented and the health department would promote it as soon as it is approved by the National Food and Drug Administration, Zhu Jiaming, the vice-president of the Guangzhou Sexology Association, said. "The success rate for this form of birth control is 97 percent."

Wu said the operation takes just 10 minutes.

Feast for fusion cuisine

The 4th Western Food Festival, organized by the China Cuisine Association, was held yesterday in the Shanghai Pudong International Exhibition Center.

The festival was held to discuss how to best cater to foreign guests visiting China.

CFP Photo



Rare-tiger photo flap makes fur fly in China

(Science) A few weeks ago, tiger researchers celebrated the news that a South China tiger had been spotted – and photographed – in the wilds of Shaanxi Province. But netizens in China and elsewhere have declared it a "paper tiger" after scrutinizing the two available images.

Although the species was declared "functionally extinct," reports of tiger activity in the heavily-forested Qinba Mountains prompted Shaanxi officials to offer a reward to anyone able to photograph one of the tigers.

At an October 12 press conference in Xi'an, Zhou Zhenglong, a former hunter, told a rapt audience of his quest to photograph the beast, crawling to within 20 meters of one and snapping 71 images. When the camera's flash went off, the tiger roared and disappeared, he said.

Skeptics, citing factors such as the tiger's tame-looking expression and unreal coat color – as well as the fact that the two photos portray exactly the same tiger but differently positioned foliage – think it is more likely that someone



Rare-Tiger Photo Flap Makes Fur Fly in China

A few weeks ago, tiger researchers celebrated the news that a South China tiger had been spotted in the wilds of Shaanxi Province.

planted a cardboard tiger in the bushes.

Fu Dezhi, a botanist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said the plants are not to scale in relation to the tiger.

"I guarantee with my head that the photographs are authentic," Zhou, who was paid 20,000 yuan (US \$2,692) for the images, said.

The Shaanxi Forestry Bureau is pushing ahead with plans for a thorough survey and a tiger reserve. "It's tremendously exciting news, if it can be substantiated," tiger expert Gary Koehler of Washington state's Department of Fish and Wildlife said. But first, "they need to look for hair snags or scat" for genetic verification.

Official response

By Huang Daohen

The influential US-based Science magazine published last Friday the "extinct" wild South China tiger photo to reignite the controversial discovery.

The State Forestry Administration (SFA) held a press conference last week to explain that "the existence of a single tiger does not mean there is a tiger community."

"One single tiger does not necessarily translate into the existence

Local response

The Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department was shocked by the unexpected controversy the photos ignited, the Xinhua news agency reported.

A Shaanxi forestry official defended the authenticity of the

Academic response

Some Chinese scientists also echoed the opinion, saying that people should know better than merely arguing about the authenticity of the photos.

"There are many animals and plants that should be protected in this area of Shaanxi even if there are no South China tigers," Xie Yan, a tiger researcher with the Institute

of a group, and whether the photos are true or not does not illustrate the current situation of wild South China tigers," Cao Qingrao, spokesman of SFA, said at a press conference last week.

Cao warned about setting off tiger hunts, and said, "As some areas are offering rewards for tiger pictures, I remind you not to disturb their daily life and take the risk of photographing dangerous animals that can threaten your life."

picture. "Zhou Zhenglong risked his life in taking these photos, so they are very precious. We were cautious and responsible in releasing them," Zhu Julong, deputy head of the provincial forestry department, said.

of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said.

"Looking at this from a positive point of view, the dispute over the authenticity of the photos has shown the public has developed a much greater interest in the conservation of wild animals. It is important to preserve people's concerns about wildlife," Xie said.

China to phase out tax breaks for foreign companies

(Xinhua) – China has drafted executive regulations for a new corporate income tax law that will harmonize the domestic and foreign rates, and the final draft has been submitted to the State Council for approval, the *China Securities Journal* reported on Wednesday, citing an expert close to the issue.

The income tax rate for foreign companies in special bonded zones, which previously enjoyed a preferential rate of 15 percent, will rise in stages to 18 percent, 20 percent, 22 percent, 24 percent and finally 25 percent, the same

as domestic companies, over five years, according to the draft.

The arrangement would apply to such bonded zones as Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, economic development zones set up in coastal cities like Hongqiao Economic and Technological Development Zone in Shanghai, and high and new-tech development zones in Beijing.

Foreign companies that have tax holidays, which provide for five tax-free years and another five years of up to 50 percent reduction, will retain those concessions for the full 10 years before facing

the new higher rates.

The 15-percent rate will be retained until 2010 for foreign companies that invest in middle and western regions of China, an apparent effort by the government to redress regional economic imbalances.

The regulations will include new criteria for high and new-technology firms, which can enjoy a lower 15-percent rate.

The changes will make it more difficult for companies to gain the status of high- or new-tech investors, according to the expert. "They would no longer enjoy the

status forever and qualifications will be re-evaluated every one or two years. Those who fail to meet the standards would be disqualified," the expert said.

The regulations also state, in detail, tax policies that will favor infrastructure projects, environmental protection, and energy and water conservation.

The expert said the draft is still subject to revision by the State Council. The new law, adopted this past March to allow fair competition between foreign and domestic companies, is set to take effect on January 1, 2008.

Air France offers offset carbon emissions

By Huang Daoheng

Air France and GoodPlanet, a non-profit association, recently signed an agreement to offer passengers the opportunity to offset their CO2 emissions generated by their flights with Air France.

The opportunity to offset carbon emissions is a response to concern from some Air France customers, key accounts, corporates or individual passengers, who are aware of the environmental impact of their trips.

This voluntary offsetting program is managed by GoodPlanet's Action Carbone project. The amounts donated will be used to fund programs in fields such as energy conservation, renewable energy projects and agroforestry.

Passengers can now calculate their CO2 emissions using the CO2 emission calculator available on the Company's website since July 2007. It is accessible from the reservation home page airfrance.fr.

ING joint ventures win approval for branches

(XFN-ASIA) – ING Group said that both its China insurance ventures, ING Capital Life Insurance and Pacific Antai Life Insurance, have received regulatory approval to establish branch operations in Anhui and Jiangsu provinces.

The consent allows ING Capital Life and Pacific Antai six months to set up branches in the two eastern provinces, ING said in a statement.

The two businesses will then be able to sell insurance to the 11 million inhabitants of Hefei in Anhui province and Nanjing in Jiangsu, ING said.

Drift racers parade in Hangzhou



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The car models cheered for racers during a car parade along West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, yesterday. The 2007 World Drift Series arrived at Hangzhou Station that day.

IC Photo

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Controversy over digital eyes in restaurant kitchens

By Huang Daohen

Good news for customers who always dine outside in Haidian district: the local food inspection authorities have started to install video surveillance devices in restaurant kitchens to improve sanitation levels and food security for the public.

The first batch of electric eyes in the kitchens were installed in seven nutrition-food-processing companies last week, the Bureau for Health Inspection and Supervision of Beijing Haidian district was quoted by *Beijing Youth Daily* as saying.

"The devices allow inspectors to monitor the live operation of the kitchens from a distance, and we plan to install the device in 100 restaurants in the near future," Zhen Xiaoyu, an official with the district's sanitation authority, said.

Zhen pointed out that the devices should be mounted over sinks, stoves, food-preparation areas and dish-washing areas. In addition to the inspectors, customers can watch what's going on in the kitchens through televisions placed in dining areas.

The video recordings will be retained for one month and the police may use them to track

sources of food safety problems, Zhen said.

As for the cost, each restaurant has to pay up to 8,000 yuan to install and maintain the equipment, the Haidian food inspection authority said.

Such a considerable amount of money makes it more difficult for sanitation officials to promote the use of the devices in the whole city. Officials at the Haidian sanitation bureau said they hope the government will introduce relevant policies, making kitchen transparency a compulsory practice that conforms to sanitation management.

China enacted regulations on video surveillance for public security on January 25 and many cities in China have established extensive surveillance systems with the help of the latest technology including the Internet and satellites.

Statistics show that there are about 265,000 surveillance cameras in the streets, squares, residential communities and shopping malls in Beijing.

However, the regulations do not require that electronic eyes be placed in restaurants.

This new policy is welcomed by the public, but makes some restaurant owners quite uneasy.



An official with the Haidian sanitation watched the surveillance video. Installing digital eyes in kitchens makes some restaurants' owners quite uneasy.

Photo by Apple Chen

Comments

Reveal the secret recipe

The policy worries me. I can fully understand that the devices are used for sanitation, but they will reveal our secret recipes to others.

— Zhan Jin, restaurant owner

Praise the policy

I praise the installation of the electronic eyes, because they will ensure that restaurants comply with health and sanitation standards and let diners know which

kitchens are clean and whether food preparers are wearing masks and caps.

— Jun Chen, local customer

Set up a grading system

That's one video I wouldn't want to see. Why not set up a grading system for food sanitation management instead.

— Jack Russell

It's great!

I think it's a great! I'd like to see it. Dirty restaurants are

a constant problem and even being a four-star restaurant does not guarantee that the kitchen is clean.

— Jersey Highlander

Chefs have private rights!

Admittedly, the surveillance systems are of key importance in maintaining public security, especially when a record of an incident is needed. However, chefs have their private rights!

— Jeff Johansson

Pandas need wealthy parents?

By Jackie Zhang

Early next month, the adoption rights to five pandas in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, will be auctioned to the public. It is the first time that the panda research organization has presented auction adoption rights

of pandas in China and it has created public dispute.

The five pandas, Basi, Fufu, Linyang, Xiaoqing and Anan, are from the Fuzhou Giant Panda Research Center. Basi is the prototype of Panpan, mascot of the 11th Asian Games held in Beijing

in 1990. The base price is 100,000 yuan for a one-year adoption. The other four base prices for a one-year adoption range from 400,000 to 500,000 yuan. It is also possible to adopt these pandas permanently.

The adopters will be authorized to visit and see the pandas in the research center, listen to researchers' reports on the animal's life and physical examinations; raise suggestions on feeding the pandas and the research center will do promotions on the individual or com-

pany that adopts the pandas. Individuals or companies both in China or abroad are qualified to bid for the adoption rights.

Soon after the news was released by the research center in September, varied opinions were expressed. Many people thought that the whole concept was quite commercial. People doubted that it was authorized by the State Forestry Administration.

"Although it is a commercial solution to auction off the adoption rights, we are selling pandas to individuals or compa-

nies. Adopters actually only pay money for feeding the animals and supporting research. There is no need to get permission from the State Forestry Administration," Chen Yucun, director of the research center, said. "To auction adoption rights is to give pandas a better and more comfortable environment in which to live. The financial condition of the center is not good and the facilities are outdated as well. All the money we get from the auction will be used for panda research and adoption."



The auction of Fuzhou's pandas' adoption right draws public concern.

CFP Photo

Comments

Should be permitted

It is a charitable and beneficial act to help protect pandas and support research. However, when it is related to commerce and profit, it becomes tainted. We can't measure people's kindness by money. And it should be permitted through the State Forestry Administration.

— Cui Xuezheng, expert on panda research

Adopter promotion isn't proper

It is not proper to do any promotion for adopters. Hanging a board showing the adopters' name is enough to let people know who is supporting panda protection and research. But extra promotions are not necessary. It will give the impression that scientific

staff are becoming businessmen.

— Ryan Chan

Should think twice

It is good to auction off pandas' adoption rights. It is nice to get more financial support for panda protection. But I think the center should give more thought to adopters' qualifications and duties. We can't easily trust a stranger and believe that he or she has a good heart to protect pandas. Maybe they just want to get more profit by adopting pandas and to promote themselves. The center is responsible to select honest and upright people.

Make good use of money

The adoption right does not mean that the pandas belong

to the adopters. They just provide financial support, see the pandas regularly and give suggestions on the panda's life. I think it is better for people to donate money toward rewarding issues, such as protecting animals, rather than spending money on luxurious clothes and jewelry.

— Kendy

Good luck to the pandas

It's like buying lottery tickets. If the adopters are kind, the pandas will receive financial support and the center will be able to update their facilities. But if the adopters only want to make some extra profit by making use of these pandas, what can the research center do? I can only wish these pandas good luck.

— chsxyz3

Greek Olympic director's 'lonely ending'

By Han Manman

The title, "Olympic music director" usually equates to "flowers, applause and endless honors," however, the Olympics for Giorgos Koumentakis, musical director and creator of the Athens Olympics opening and closing ceremony, meant loneliness. Arriving in Beijing on Wednesday, Koumentakis will participate in two Greek concerts on Friday and Saturday, which are part of the Greek Culture Year.

"Lonely" ending

"Was it worth it? I would have to say yes! Would I do it all over again? I would have to say, no!" Koumentakis said when he recalled his whole endeavor for the Athens Olympics, adding, "Sometimes I felt I was playing a tragic role and I was so lonely!"

Koumentakis dedicated four years to his country's Olympic Games and it took several more years for his life to get back on track.

"When you are in that position, you are busy like Superman, you feel like you're at the center

of the world. However, when the flame dies, the city returns to its regular rhythm, you feel you have nothing left and so lonely," he said. Koumentakis joked that the feeling was like a man with many lovers who all disappear one day.

The musical part aside, the most difficult thing for Koumentakis during Olympic preparations was communicating with hundreds of thousands of people, which made him tired. "I yearned to live in a place far away from the noise and troubles of the world." So, after the Olympics, Koumentakis moved from Athens to a small island and lives there to this day.

Koumentakis said he would never do such work again and never be Superman again. Now, he has happily returned to his life's work – composer.

Athens Olympics

Koumentakis, 48, is a young musician compared to other well-known Greek music masters. When Athens got the opportunity to host the 2004 Olympics, the whole Hellene believed that the huge task of music director should

be given to a qualified senior.

Koumentakis said the previous Athens Olympic chairman invited many musicians to talk about ideas for the Olympic opening and closing ceremony. After the discussions, Koumentakis shut himself and his team away in his home for months and finished an original series of works including music, performances and stage designs. "The Olympic committee finally accepted our suggestions even though they weren't familiar with me," Koumentakis said.

In preparation for a wonderful Olympics, Koumentakis collected all the Olympic video records he could find to understand what they did in the past. After viewing over 4,000 music presentations, two works impressed him a lot including the music from the Seoul Olympics, which he felt was very powerful and grand. "I'm not a mean critic, but most Olympic opening and closing ceremonies smack of Hollywood," he said.

However, splendid music and large-scale productions is not Hel-

lene's forte. "Hellene's nature is just to care about our own business and do it well," Koumentakis said, "that is the reason why it was so hard to find enough volunteers for the Greek Olympics at that time. So, we just did what we could instead of pushing our limits."

Koumentakis said the music they finally adopted was not his favorite but it perfectly energized the audience and athletes. "They were so excited and clapped their hands as if possessed." Koumentakis knew he had succeeded.

As for the suggestion of working for the Beijing Olympics, Koumentakis said he had no comment, explaining that when he was in the Olympic director position, most of the suggestions he heard were proved wrong finally.

The concert

The two days of concerts being held at the Beijing Conservatory of Music today and tomorrow are mainly to showcase the contemporary Greek musical.

Koumentakis' work, "Journey into Night," was composed in



Giorgos Koumentakis

Photo provided by the Greek Embassy

1997 and will be presented in today's concert by the Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

Contemporary Greek musicals spring from two important sources: a particularly wealthy tradition of monophonic church and folk music which has grown separately from western influence for ten centuries; an open dialog with a vast range of musical idioms and compositional techniques from around the contemporary world.

All five works presented in tomorrow's concert by the Megaron Orchestra of Greece offer different examples of the integration of musical elements coming from these two sources.

Exiled 'Spiderman' returns



French Spiderman Alain Robert
CFP Photo

By Han Manman

Months after being expelled from China for climbing Shanghai's tallest building without permission, French "Spiderman" Alain Robert has returned to prepare for another stunt at the Chinese peak in Hunan Province on Sunday. This time it's at the invitation of the local government.

Robert spent five days in Shanghai after he clambered up and then down the eastern city's famed 88-storey Jin Mao tower, dressed in a Spiderman costume.

On this occasion Robert will scale one of China's best-known mountains, Tianmen Mountain, in Zhangjiajie, in the northwestern part of Hunan Province.

"At first I didn't understand that it was going to have such bad consequences. I thought it would mean just one or maybe two weeks in jail. It was only when I was back in France that I learned that I had been banned," he told The Associated Press Hong Kong Tuesday, where he was resting for Sunday's climb.

The climb, which he said would probably take about one hour, would be made without any mountaineering gear at the request of the local government and would be broadcast across China by local television.

The local government hopes that the event will raise the profile of Zhangjiajie and bring in some 3,000-5,000 tourists on that day. The area was designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations culture and heritage department in 1992.

Robert, 45, was dubbed the French Spiderman for his ascents up some of the world's tallest buildings without climbing gear including Taipei 101 in Taiwan, Malaysia's Petronas Towers and Hong Kong's gold-mirrored, 48-story Far East Finance Center.

One man, two guitars

By Gan Tian

Rodney Branigan, US entertainer, visited Beijing last Saturday. As soon as he arrived, he showed off his musical talent at Jianghu Pub on Sunday evening, surprising his Chinese fans with his skill of playing two guitars simultaneously.

The 31-year-old entertainer admitted he was practicing this time for his China live concert next year. "I didn't know much about China before, until one day I met Lin Su, a very nice Chinese lady. She asked me to come to China to do some live shows," Branigan said. It seemed his Chinese tour was a great success. He now plays several live shows at Jianghu, Purple Haze and many other night pubs these days in Beijing, and was invited to Tianjin Normal University to make a speech on his musical techniques.

Branigan's special skill is to play two guitars at the same time. He sang The Beatles song, "Come Together" with two guitars in each hand. He admitted that he did not pick up the quirky skill intentionally. "Many people are either left-handed or right handed, but I am both," he shared his experience. It happened that one of his students asked him to hold his guitar. "I was holding mine in one hand, and when I took his, I realized I could play the two together."

It was troublesome when he tried practicing. "I have to do live shows about 185 times a year and I have been doing that for five years," Branigan said, "Live shows were good practice for me. I always learned something from



Rodney Branigan at play.

Photo provided by Lin Su

every show."

Branigan writes most of his own material. Besides music, he loves painting. "I can paint with two hands together," he said, "It's

also a way of practicing." Now he's expecting his latest album to be released next year worldwide, and also looking for great success in his China concert next year.

Global CEOs discuss sustainable development

By Huang Daoheng

As part of the Multinational CEO Roundtable, which will be held in the Jinjiang Fuyuan Hotel from November 16 to 18, 100 CEOs from 500 enterprises have gathered in the city to share their views on the opportunities and challenges of sustainable development.

Themed "equality, credibility and win-win cooperation," the session will bring together CEOs and senior executives from companies such as Volkswagen, ABB, Veolia, Bombardier, UBS, DSM, State Grid, Sinopec and China Mobil.

Sustainable development in the following decades remains a common concern at the roundtable, and global CEOs and senior government officials will discuss multinational corporations, China's economic sustainable development, opportunities and challenges for transnational mergers, the international finance market and the opening up of financial markets.

"We are delighted to be able to put together this roundtable on such a timely topic," Cheng Siwei, vice chairman of the National People's Congress

and secretary general of the event's organizing committee, said. "The sustainable development of China is not only an issue cared about by the government, but is a common concern of China's business community."

"Business and government sectors, together with relevant institutions and social communities, should join hands for the common goal," Cheng said.

He will deliver two theme lectures at the session and hold talks with the global CEOs on China's current securities, funds and transnational mergers.

A series of forums concerning urban environment and enterprise investment, credit and sustainable development and financial capital will be held during the three-day meeting.

The roundtable, approved by the Ministry of Commerce, was organized by the China International Institute of Multinational Cooperation and international organizations, including the United Nations Development Program, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Global Compact.

Minister for London Olympics visits capital



Three teenagers talking with Tessa Jowell.

Photo provided by British Council

By Jackie Zhang

Three Chinese middle and high school students, the British Council's Climate Cool Ambassadors, met Tessa Jowell, a senior UK government minister for the 2012 London Olympics, Tuesday.

The students, representatives of the city's teenagers, previously visited England as part of their commitment to raising awareness of climate change and encouraging individual action to combat global warming.

The discussion between Jowell and the students centered on environmental concerns regarding the Olympics, what London has done about its own problems and Jowell's advice for the capital.

"We take climate change very seriously. We want to know that our governments are taking positive action to ensure the Beijing Olympics is a green Olympics," Jin Yunan, one of the students, said. "This access to a senior member of the UK government means that our voices are being heard, and our con-

cerns about the environment are being taken seriously."

Putting environmental responsibility at the heart of the Olympic Games was an important part of the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics, Jowell said. "It is wonderful to meet young people so engaged with the environmental agenda in Beijing," she said.

Jowell, who arrived last Sunday and returned to the UK yesterday, was charged with bringing an understanding of how Beijing has prepared for its games back to her own country.

Her visit agenda included a visit with the president of the China Institute of Sport Science (CISS), Tian Ye, to hear results of sports psychology, biomechanics, physiology, sports training and biochemistry research, and with Liu Qi, president of BOCOG and party secretary of Beijing, Deng Pufang, executive president of BOCOG and head of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, and Liu Peng, minister of the General Administration of Sport.

International artists inspired by Chinese minority

By He Jianwei

Yesterday, 18 choreographers and composers from 13 Asian and European countries flew to Guizhou Province from Beijing to observe the ancient dance and music traditions of the Miao Minority, who live in the remote rural areas of the province.

These choreographers and composers were chosen from 96 people in Asian and European countries to participate in a project called, "Pointe to Point, the 5th Asia Europe Dance Forum," from this Wednesday to next Saturday.

The aim of this year's Pointe to Point project is to provide an avenue for new inspiration and discovery. The project will explore the relationships between traditional and contemporary dance in urban and rural contexts and between dance and music.

Jethro Pioquinto, a choreog-

rapher and a dancer from the Philippines, felt excited about her trip to Guizhou Province. "I have been to the province of Ifugao, which is in the northern part of the Philippines, and enjoyed the original tribe dances," Pioquinto said.

He believes that cultural preservation is the most important thing for humankind. "The Ifugao's dance is all about the relationships between nature and humans showing how they grow rice," he said.

Ifugao is best known for its rice terraces, which can be found in almost all the municipalities of the province. Considered one of the eight wonders of the world, the famed terraces are a marvelous engineering feat achieved by the ancients to maximize use of the land for food production.

These 18 choreographers and composers were divided into

three groups. In each group, there were four choreographers and two composers.

It was the first time that Pioquinto had worked with other choreographers and composers from different cultures. "I'm eager to experience our different views towards Chinese ancient traditions of dance and music, when we make a four-day trip to a Miao village to enjoy the celebration of their New Year," he said.

After their trip to Guizhou, they will come back to Beijing and create a new work that will be presented on November 24.

It is one of the Asia-Europe Foundation's (ASEF) Young Artist Exchanges, which aims to empower aspiring young artists from Asia and Europe to reflect upon their views of contemporary society through their individual artistic expression.



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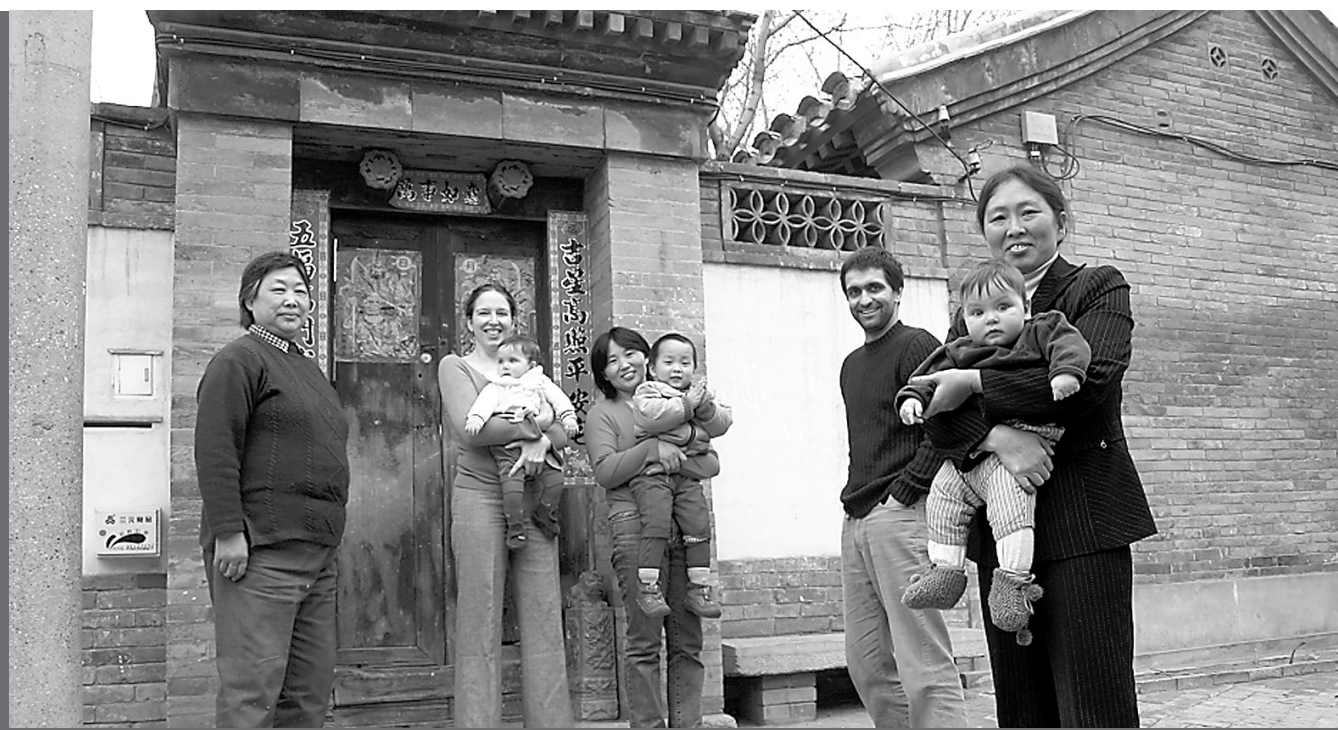
Before renovation



After renovation



Kids' room



Barbara Muench (second from left) and her family standing in front of their hutong house with a neighbor (first from left).

Photos provided by Barbara Muench

German couple renovates hutong house

Combo of modern and traditional

Their hutong house near the Drum tower was purchased in 2004, when regulations allowed foreigners to do so. The renovation was finished at the end of 2005.

According to its former owner, the gate dates back to Ming Dynasty, while the houses themselves date back to the later years of Qing Dynasty.

Walking through the gate, there is a lovely courtyard with trees, flowers, stairs and two cats; the north and south houses maintain their traditional style with a glittering patterned ceramic floor, which can hardly be found anywhere today. The east building is designed in a modern motif.

Barbara Muench and her husband Michael Arri, 37, have been living in Beijing for six years. Before this house, they had lived in several other districts. Barbara Muench never dreamed of living in a hutong, due to their up-down reputation.

Although there were some good hutong houses available for rent, Muench said that renting a courtyard was very expensive, so their only option to live in a hutong was to buy their own and renovate it.

The courtyard houses of western living standards rent for US \$3,000 – 8,000 per month in Beijing now. "Expat tenants who prefer living in a nice hutong courtyard are mainly from Europe, especially France and Germany," Martin Luo, a sales manager from Prospect Real Estate Consulting, said. He said every one of his 50 foreign clients were particularly interested in hutong houses.

Mentioning one of his clients, a European embassy officer living in a courtyard house in Jingshan, Lou said, "His rent started at US \$2,000 per month some years ago, but now that place can be rented out at US \$5,000 easily."

"The hutong house market is very different from new buildings," Lou said, "The rent for a new building has a certain price range, but hutong houses totally depend on the owner's expectations."

A working staff at the Dongcheng housing bureau said there was a trend of foreigners purchasing hutong houses, but were reluctant to give an actual figure.

"It's wonderful to have a courtyard for the kids, especially in the middle of the city!" Muench said, pointing at photos she took during summer, when the trees lined many alleys in the downtown area, "Beijing is very much like a garden."

By Annie Wei

After two years of searching, purchasing and renovating a *hutong* house as a home for her family – her husband and new-born twins – Barbara Muench, 37, a German architect can now happily enjoy the combination of modern life-style and historic heritage in the center of the capital's hutongs.



A worker painting the roof

Renovation not easy

Many people find living in hutongs very poetic. They just wander around Nanluguxiang for a cup of coffee and a peak at the lovely courtyard houses covered in green vines. However, there is great difference between visiting and living in a hutong.

It's hard to imagine what the Muench's house was like before when you see it today.

Most hutong houses are cold and damp because the bricks absorb water from the ground. Many hutong residents develop arthritis or rheumatism in their old age.

But the Muench's house is warm and dry. Taking advantage of her own architectural experience, she knew how she wanted her home to be and how to achieve that goal.

She carefully added waterproof layers to the walls and floors and installed her own heating system.

In many hutong areas, old sewage systems made it impossible for hutong residents to have private toilets and bathrooms. Muench and her husband had to build their own septic tank to make bathroom and kitchen water facilities as convenient as in other modern buildings. When the septic tank is full, they simply call the appropriate government authority to send a truck to remove the septic waste.

Years of poor maintenance had rotten the wood poles, and the walls inside were all covered with fungus. The Muench family had to rebuild the walls, brick by brick. To maintain the Chinese housing style, they asked the painters to use traditional techniques to do the windows and wooden supporting columns, applying a mix of pig blood, natural fiber, oil and some other ingredients, layer by layer. This very time consuming technique is rarely used today, but makes the house very hardy.

Basic obstacles the biggest trouble

Muench ran into some basic obstacles for anyone wanting to renovate a hutong house. First of all, the neighbors.

"We are very lucky that we have very nice neighbors and we keep a very good relationship with them," Muench said.

Obviously, the whole alley knows the Muench family and its two children. When the 15-month-old baby girl is outside, everyone from the garbage man to senior citizens sit outside sunbathing and chatting with her.

"When you are renovating an old house, you make quite a mess outside in the yard with garbage strewn everywhere," she said.

According to local regulations, big trucks cannot drive on second ring road before 11 pm, while bigger vehicles cannot travel in the hutong area after 10 pm. So, you always depend on the goodwill of your neighbors to get the work done.

The second obstacle is finding the construction team. For such a small project, Muench said that no big professional construction company would take on the job.

They had to hire a small team from the countryside, who needed to live where they worked in order to save time and money commuting between downtown Beijing and the suburbs.

Since these construction workers were used to considerably low standards, to achieve the western quality and standards, Muench said that she had to be on-site every day to give them the right directions, including where to buy the materials.

However for Muench, the whole energy-consuming renovation process brought her something quite meaningful. "As a foreigner in Beijing, most people I met before were academics, like young professionals or clients who were well-off," Muench said, "However, the renovation process gave me the opportunity to get to know a totally different world, like all my neighbors and people in the countryside who are the real world and the real life in China."

Events

Flea market for expats in Shunyi to open next weekend

Do you want to get some practical things at low prices? Do you have any unwanted articles? If you don't want to throw them away, come to Pinnacle Plaza.

There will be a flea market at Pinnacle Plaza next weekend. You are welcome to trade for fun and make new friends.

Selling Spaces: One Booth, 5 meters by 3 meters

Where: Pinnacle Plaza Houshayu Shunyi

When: From 10 am to dark November 24 and 25, 2007. Booths are limited. Please reserve in advance before November 20.

Cost: 50 yuan for two days
Tel: 6590 2513,
13601387065 Charles, 6590 2526, 13601357543 Cathy
Email: charles@ynet.com

Theatre kids camp for children to perform A Christmas Carol

The Beijing Playhouse has announced open enrollment for the following theatre kid's camp. Participants aged 6-18 will perform Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* with poetry, song and dance. Aspiring actors, singers, dancers, acrobats and musicians are all welcome. English proficiency not necessary. Your child can have fun doing a play during the Winter Holiday.

Classes are one week, Monday – Saturday, December 31 – January 6, 9 am – 4 pm, ending with a family performance.

Where: Beijing Playhouse at British School of Beijing, Sanlitun Campus, 5 Xiliu Jie, Sanlitun Road (Map provided upon request.)

When: Student registration and open auditions are Sunday, December 16 at 2 pm. Everyone will be cast.

Cost: 2,520 yuan
Website:
beijingplayhouse.com
(By He Jianwei/Wei Ying)

National Grand Theater to open next month



A night scene at the beautiful National Grand Theater.

Photo provided by National Grand Theater

By Han Manman

The newly-completed National Grand Theater will begin its formal performance season on December 22. The season will last until April 6. Within three and a half months, 180 performances will be staged with a third being overseas plays. Tickets for all shows are available now, and can be booked online starting November 30.

Performance

Performances, including operas such as *Othello* and ballets including *Swan Lake*, *Jewels* and *Le Corsaire* will be staged during the first season, Deng Yijiang, the theater's deputy president, said during a news briefing Monday.

An inaugural concert will be given by the China National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) and Beijing Symphony Orchestra. Soloist, Li Yundi, a young Chinese pianist, will perform a piece by

Maurice Ravel.

The Mariinsky Theater Opera Company, known until 1991 as the Kirov, from St Petersburg, Russia, will perform Alexander Borodin's *Prince Igor* on December 25. It will be the first foreign art troupe to give a performance in the building.

Among international performers appearing will be conductors Valery Gergiev and Seiji Ozawa, and sopranos Kathleen Battle and Kiri Te Kanawa. Aside from the Mariinsky Theater of Russia, other famous foreign art troupes such as the New York Philharmonic will perform.

Deng said, these shows are expected to attract an audience totaling 300,000 and more than 20,000 tickets have already been sold for the opening season.

Throughout the season, 33

art education activities will also be held, including Chinese pianist Lang Lang's face to face instruction of children's piano skills.

Tickets

Tickets for all shows are available via the center's website, chncpa.org, which launched Tuesday, or from the center's box office and regular ticketing agents. The English version of the website is not complete.

The ticket hotline is 6655 0000. All the center's phone receptionists will be able to handle requests in basic English. The center will sell tickets for as little as 30 yuan and the average ticket price will be lower than that for a regular show in Beijing, Deng said.

The online booking service will start November 30. Buyers can select their favorite seats according

to different price levels. Deng said the online seat selection system is the first of its kind in China.

Partial schedule

Opera House: Prince Igor (December 25-28); Swan Lake (December 31);

Concert Hall: Inaugurate Concert (December 22-23); world classical opera concert (December 24); 2008 New Year's concert (December 31)

Theater: Drama *Autumn Begins* by Drama Theatre of Shanxi Province (December 26-29)

The theater

The building, which is west of Tian'anmen Square, boasts three large halls – a 2,416-seat opera house, a 2,017-seat concert hall and a 1,040-seat theater.

Construction on the National Grand Theater began in December 2001 and was completed in late September this year.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I want to know how Chinese dishes are named.

The owners of many famous restaurants throughout the dynasties won praise from their customers for their good service and became famous. This, in turn, brought them more customers and still better business. Quanjude Beijing roast duck is one example.

There are many stories and allusions behind the names of Chinese dishes, which add to the mystique of Chinese cuisine. There are elegant names, vulgar names, and farfetched names, but they all were intended to stimulate the appetite. The names of the dishes were mostly related to the status of the customers. At banquets attended by businessmen, the dishes were named to promote their business and their profitability.

What are the criterias that I can stay in China permanently?

To qualify for permanent residence status, you must meet at least one of the following criteria: be a high-level foreign expert holding a post that promotes China's economic, scientific and technological development or social progress; have made outstanding contributions of special importance to China; or to have made a large direct investment of over US \$500,000 in China; have come to China to be with your family, such as spouse, dependent minors or senior citizens.

What is the electrical fitting in China?

If you are planning on using a foreign electrical device in China you may need a plug-in adaptor and a voltage converter.

Electrical current in China is 220V and 50Hz AC. You need a voltage converter that can handle a higher or equal wattage than that of the device that it is to be used with. It is better to bring your surge protector in order to safeguard sensitive and expensive items such as laptops against power surges.

China has different shaped plug-in connections for power cords. There are two basic kinds, one is a three-headed flat and diagonally positioned connection and a two pin parallel connection. You can bring an adaptor set with you or buy one in any electronics store in China.

Any churches in Beijing downtown with Sunday services in English?

The Southern church, commonly known as South Cathedral or Nan Tang, 181 Qianmen West Street in the Xuanwumen area, is a few meters from the northeast exit of the station. It holds regular Sunday services in English at 10 am and 4 pm. Take the loop subway to Xuanwumen Station.

(By Wei Ying)

Where to play laser tag in town

By Annie Wei

Laser tag is the hottest game in town due to the popularity of war-themed TV shows. Big companies organize teams to play and gain some team-building experience in the process. So far, there are ten similar laser tag clubs in town for any one interested in going with friends for a party or just to play.

This week, *Beijing Today* recommends the best two.

Beijing Raywar Club

Beijing Raywar was established in 2005. Its Chinese founder, who is fond of laser tag games, has been abroad for 13 years. Beijing Raywar has opened branch stores in four other cities and gotten most of its exposure from the Chinese media. The club offers eight venues for players, and provides hundreds of equipment sets. They also take appointed venues as well.

Where: Yinshan Forest Park, north of Lujincun, Changxindian, Fengtai; Tel: 8387 6953.

It's the nearest forest park to the downtown, with bus stations, 327 and 385. It was recommended



Laser tag is growing in popularity.

CFP Photo

as one of the children's summer camps this year in Fengtai district.

Badaling Great Wall: It accommodate 60 people and provides lodging.

Beiputuo Film Shooting Base: A very spacious arena five kilometers outside the south fifth ring road.

Cost: Average 200-300 yuan per person but it varies depending on the venue, time and service. Call for more detailed information. The deposit is 100 yuan per person

Anti-terrorism base of Beijing Police College: The place is

located in Changping.

Tel: 5165 5243

Notice: The club advises clients to book two weeks in advance for weekends and the minimum number of players should be 16 to make it fun.

Beijing Fire Laser Tag Sports Club

This laser tag club was established in 2006. It provides small groups like four to 12 with an indoor battle in the Wangjing area. Groups of 12 or more can reserve outdoor battles in the Beijing suburbs.

For people who can not find

enough buddies for a team, the club suggests to log on to their website's bullet board.

Where: Building 323, Zone 3, Wangjing Xiyuan for indoor

For outdoor venues, there are the forest parks or standard military bases, which are a one hour drive from downtown.

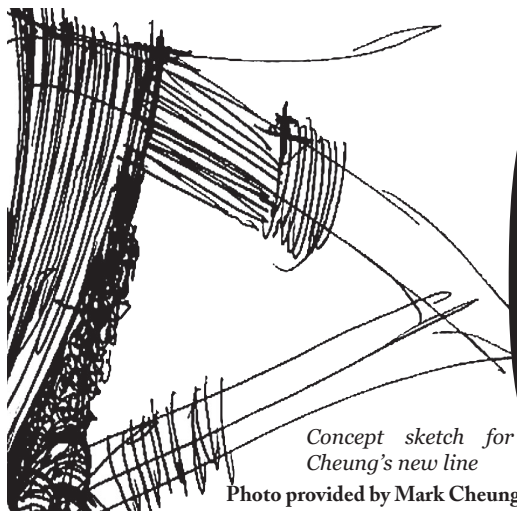
The company can find you other kinds of venues, such as holiday resorts.

Cost: The outdoor battle price is less than 300 yuan per person for club members, 350 to 400 yuan per person for non-club members. Exact price depends on the outdoor venues. Transportation service costs another 50 yuan per person.

For indoor battle, it costs between 15 yuan to 50 yuan per battle, depending on the battle level and time. Normally, night battles cost more than day ones.

You can also choose to pay by time. It costs 78 yuan per house from Monday to Friday but 88 yuan per hour on the weekend. The evening battles cost 118 yuan per hour.

Tel: 5128 3595



Concept sketch for
Cheung's new line
Photo provided by Mark Cheung

On and

By He Jianwei

Every autumn, the stunning spotlights always focus on the top designers and their collections in Beijing. Off the stage, they are eager to fight for their dreams. On the elaborate stages, the Chinese designers try their best to make their dreams come true. The China Fashion Week 08 Spring/Summer Collections, which started on November 2, brought the curtain down on its professional model contest this Monday.

China Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2008 Collections

Zhao Bandi

Pandas can bite!

By Gan Tian

In something more performance art than fashion show, Zhao Bandi, 41, impressed viewers with his panda-like style. He represented the fashion brand successfully. During his 30-minute runway show in D Park of 798 Factory, applause, screams, jeers and praise filled the air at the same time.

The show, called "Bandi: Panda," suggested the theme in the name itself. All the models wore only black and white with a pair of panda ears on their heads. Sunglasses, panda-eye make-up, silk and fur made the show look like a panda zoo. Zhao mentioned that pandas bring something soft to this tough and hard world.

The panda image was only a vehicle for the artist to express himself. The most interesting part of the show was that there was a keyword for each costume. The audience enjoyed a panda-like "nurse," "doctor" and "policeman." The "judge" came out wearing a pair of meter-long black fur ears, marking justice and fairness. However, after the model went backstage, the rest of the keywords changed dramatically into some strange, startling comment on society.

A "prostitute" model came out in a colorful outfit and a cold, proud facial expression. Then models labeled, "beggar," "corrupted official," "naked web chatter," "secretary," "teacher" and "prisoner" appeared on the runway, strutting their panda style.

The audience exploded with excitement when Furong Jiejie, Sister Lotus, who became famous on a BBS for her questionable appearance and overabundant confidence, appeared on the T-stage with the keyword "Net celebrity," shaking her ample tush.

Finally "the Queen" came out. All the audience recognized her on first sight, the model was Yang Erche Namu, a lady who created her fame from strange words and deeds – it was obvious Zhao had invited the most "popular" ladies to his show.

"I paid much attention to society and a certain group of people. My panda show focuses on these people and I just wanted to express my views," Zhao said.

Zhao studied at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts. He was a playwright, painter, poet and a performance artist. Zhao said he had been pondering true Chinese spirit. "We have to always provide something new for the world," he said.



Photos provided by the
Organizing
Committee of China
Fashion Week

Taiwan's fashion designers' debut

Chinese elements meet embroidery

By He Jianwei

Models wore gorgeous fishtail in knitted fabric design or haute couture in exaggerated colors during Taiwan's Fashion Day last Wednesday. It was the first time that Taiwan's designers brought brands Gioia Pan and PunDaiLee to a Beijing stage.

Pan Yiliang displayed her knitting fabric designs with her brand Gioia Pan. Among the new generation of fashion designers in Asia, Gioia Pan stands distinguished as an artist devoted exclusively to knitwear development.

Her unique techniques and aesthetics are overturning stereotypical impressions of knitting while kindling a novel appreciation for the medium of couture creativity.

"People believe knitwear can keep you warm, but I tell them that knitwear can also be gorgeous and suitable for an evening dress," Pan said.

By infusing chic contemporary elements, Pan spontaneously evokes essential femininity in a unique fusion of neoclassic and postmodernism.

She shapes the fishtail to sculpture the woman's body and integrates the crystals with the fibers to illuminate the elegance.

Pan also adds Chinese elements into her design. For example, she uses the design of *qipao*, a female dress with distinctive Chinese features and is enjoying a growing popularity in the international world of high fashion.

"Although it was the first time for me to create *qipao* design in my works, I did not intend to make it," she said.

She named her show "Meeting." "I hope the audiences on the Chinese mainland will discover my costumes," she said.

Dai-Lee Pun, regarded as one of the top designers in Taiwan, had the debut of her brand PunDaiLee with the theme "Sculptural Beaded Embroidery."

Inspired by the richness of elements found everywhere in the Forbidden City, Pun's collection emphasizes dazzling colors and glamorous style which transcend space and time. "This is the 'enjoyment' of the clothing culture that I have insisted on for 30 years," Pun said.

Pun's collection distinguishes itself by using Chinese ethnic elements with a touch of Western royal court style. "I embroidered beads and sequins onto lace. The multi-layered applique creates a relief effect to the existing floral pattern," she said, "This is a novel technique I call, 'sculptural beaded embroidery.'"

The contrasts between modernity and classicism, innovation and convention, exquisiteness and simplicity exude an understated radiance of joy. "This is my ideal of Chinese gowns worn at the imperial court, when the roses and peonies were blossoming in the imperial garden," she said.

Dai-lee Pun created her brand in 1981 and became president of the Taiwan Weaving Fabric Designer Association in 2001. Being a veteran fashion designer, "caring and affection" have always been the core of Pun's collection. Her works revolve around environmental awareness, a subject that she said she sees as a responsibility rather than a topic.

Mark Cheung

The man in Yellow

By He Jianwei

A 50-meter-long Bauhaus style facade, the longest stage in the night, accompanied Cantata, one of the temporary Chinese.

This was the show. With the singing of western-styled songs on his head cracked the stage, which opened.

Backed by the Cheung's show was Source and a Long River, "The Years of Mutation Forever."

This past autumn River to draw inspiration from the origin of the inner nation endless tre every Chinese person and love for the Yellow River for our history and

The beginning of a relative miniature. The echoing of the into the fashion design.

The dominant reveals the thick yellow and coarse tailoring of the Yellow River human civilization.

"Inspired by the gion wooden cutting natural elements such and silver sheath but wild-looking hair of the garment," he

Likened to the waves are represented roaring wind and the Yellow River. The ered with a charming

"In order to simulate River, I crumpled the garment. After the through a second cr ing in order to imitate watercourse, yellow

In the third series become the main fabric blue and the bronze culture, sweat clothes sources of inspiration

In the fourth series Yellow River is represented nese satin, printing style rich and quiet

The hardware "My inspiration came enamel vessels and

The last series adopts plenty of red blood red, crimson

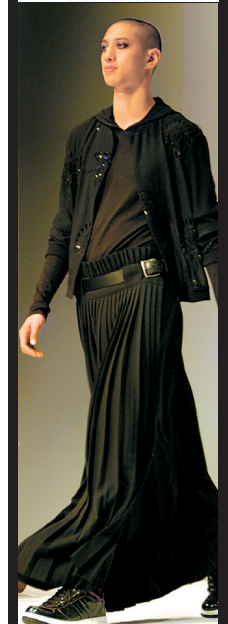


Photo by Wen Ximing

Off the catwalk

tions

g Majesty of the River

g stage made a big "S" inside a
ory as 30 models walked down the
is year's fashion week last Friday
d by the music of the Yellow River
most popular choral works in con-
music.

ow of Mark Cheung Creation 2008.
Xintianyou, one of China's north-
gs, a peasant wearing a white towel
a whip and carried two goats onto
ened Mark Cheung's show.

theme music of the Yellow River,
s made up of five series, "A Distant
g Stream," "The Running Yellow
in Yan'an," "The Enormous Accu-
and "Running into the Sea."

nn, Cheung, 44, visited the Yellow
piration. "The Yellow River is the
spirit, which brings to the Chinese
asures and civilization. I believe
on shares the same deep emotion
low River, as well as a deep respect
tradition," he said.

of the first series shows a picture of
e of the source of the Yellow River.
rivers and mountains is visualized
sign.

hue is the color of coffee, which
ellow color of the mud. The heavy
ng imitates the beginning period
r and the uncivilized beginning of

the aboriginal two-ear pottery, reli-
ng, mud sculptures as well as cul-
h as the bronze vessel, gold plate
knife, I made these simply-shaped
ardware accessories as decorations
e said.

water in the source river, the strong
nted by a dark golden color. The
lapping waves are the real face of
The deep tone of the coffee is cov-
ng luster of golden brown.

ulate the heavy waves of the Yellow
aw fabrics and tailored them into a
manufacturing, I put the garment
rumpling followed by a full wash-
ate the original colors of the rocks,
v soil and the river," he said.

ies, the jeans, sacking and cotton
abric. The main tone is the washed
ze. "The typical Yan'an yellow soil
th and blue army coat were all
on," he said.

ries, the relatively mild time of the
resented. The largely used Japa-
and fish crumples make the whole

accessories are of a delicate style.
me from the bronze coins, vitreous
big stone sculptures," he said.

is the climax of this show. Cheung
d colors in the dressings, including
and golden red.



Photo by Wen Ximing

Guo Pei

Dreamland for a girl

By He Jianwei

A little girl picks up a pillow, walks across the stage and climbs onto a bed in the corner of the stage. Keren Ann's *La ballade of Lady and Bird* in which the children interrogate the world of adulthood, accompanies her on her way to the bed.

When she falls asleep, the wall turns into a star-filled sky. And then Guo Pei's 2008 Fashion Show "Childhood and Wonderful Dream Fate" begins. The show unfolds as a little girl's dream and ends in a splendid wedding.

One of the most outstanding points of this show is the Spanish-style embroidery. Such style originated from the costumes of bull-fighters and is perfectly presented.

Affected by her own contentment, Guo, 40, carefully softens certain techniques of the Spanish embroidery, in order to present its passionate charm, without allowing the bull-fighting to disturb her little angel's dreams.

Guo is known for her strict adherence to detail. "I'm always trying to reveal a certain kind of beauty in my design, the breath-taking, flawlessly constructed and extraordinary kind of beauty," Guo said.

Compared with her shows from the previous fashion week, what we saw was a rather different picture. Without the expected gloomy and dark glory, the show presents itself as an absolutely vivid fantasy.

The process of creating this show covered her pregnancy. "The whole time is like an irresistibly joyous experience for me," she said.

A lot of designers tend to seek artistic ideas from their surroundings allowing them to bring out many innovative thoughts. "But my inspiration for this year's project came from inside. These childish and dreamy figures are not carefully planned or based on any predetermined scheme, just an interpretation of my personal feelings about being cheerfully pregnant," she said.

This show is like a diary of Guo's pregnancy. She has changed her ways of reading and understanding beauty in the procedure of creating and completing this show. Her focus shifts from the strict hold of perfection to the childish dreams, emerging from natural and sincere pleasure.

As a result, during such a miraculous period, the impulsive beauty that used to attract her the most, the kind that would have faded in the wink of an eye, is gradually replaced by the beauty of life, the beauty of continuity and the beauty of eternity.

The wonderful pregnancy not only resulted in the birth of her little baby girl, but also completed her enchanting journey of childish dreams.



Photo by Zhao Zhiqiang

China Fashion Week

Editors: Yu Shanshan He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY



Haute couture from Dreamland

Concept sketch for Cheung's new line
Photo provided by Mark Cheung

Guo Pei

Pushing the boundaries of fashion

By He Jianwei

Artists' studios are not usually known for their organization, but Guo Pei's looks like a small palace. Her haute couture is augmented with a baroque air from her hallway decorations.

Guo opened Rose Studio in 1997 to focus on her Chinese haute couture designs. She is part of China's first generation of fashion designers and is known for her breathtaking and precisely-detailed dresses.

Young talent

Guo Pei was born in the 1960s and studied design in the 1980s. She has worked in the industry for the last 20 years.

"When I was in college, we didn't really have any concept of 'fashion design' - it was just something that a tailor did," Guo said.

Guo said she believes her talent has helped her a lot. As a baby, she was presented with several objects to pick from in a zhua-jiu session and chose a pencil. Zhua-jiu is a Chinese tradition where a child, age one, is asked to pick from many symbolic objects to divine his or her future ambition. "My parents told me I drew something that resembled a portrait when I picked it up," she said.

In primary school, Guo began to make simple clothes. She made a sleeveless shirt with a wide and deep collar and was praised by her neighbors for the innovation. "The designs in the 1970s were very simple and dull. Any clothing alterations were hailed

as creative," she said.

No head for trivia, passion for design

Guo is very driven and focused, but can only retain the details of imagery she sees. Any associated names or figures are immediately forgotten.

"I couldn't remember my husband's family name when we first fell in love, so I leave those kinds of details to my husband, because he's good at that," she said.

"I can spend 40,000 hours with my staff to make one dress - a five-year effort. I never feel tired when I make haute couture," she said. She finished her designs for this year's show during pregnancy.

Her designs challenge the limitations of length, width and weight, and also of the imagination. Last year, she made a dress weighing 250 kilograms and decorated with 300,000 pearls - this year, origami designs are in order.

Themed on stories

In last year's show, Guo played on the story of Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*. "The four parts in the show are like the rebirth of a life. I believe fashion has its own life and will never die," she said.

In this year's show, she featured the story every little girl dreams of. "Every little girl has dreamed of wearing a fabulous dress and having a stunning wedding ceremony," she said. "Although reality doesn't always turn out that way, we can still dream to get through life," she said.

Pregnancy cannot keep Guo Pei out of the studio.
Photos provided by Guo Pei

Mark Cheung

Travel and flow combine in Cheung's design

By He Jianwei

In 1978, a 16-year-old boy had a narrow escape after being hit by a lightning bolt. Feeling lucky, he decided to loiter away the rest of his life. That boy, Mark Cheung, 44, became the vice-chairman of the China Association of Fashion Designers.

Cheung is the first Chinese fashion designer to break into the Western market. He began designing haute couture for Oleg Cassini, a US brand, in 1985 and has published many of his designs in US magazines.

He said his inspiration is drawn from his many travels throughout China. Each year, he journeys to many areas and begins designing the next year's

catalog upon return.

In July 2006, he visited Tibet and stayed there for about 20 days, fulfilling a long-time dream to see China's snow-capped west.

"Returning from Tibet, I brought much more than just a breathtakingly beautiful crown of flowers and an antique prayer wheel. I was inspired, body and soul, and baptized in the celestial beauty of the Tibetans," he said.

Tibetan culture has been sneaking into his designs ever since, especially Thangka paintings. "The folk art (of Tibet) is so avant-garde and awe-inspiring. I couldn't believe it was a painting. The exquisite beauty of these heaven-inspired works can rival that of any top-notch design labels," he said.

In this year's show, his inspiration was drawn mostly from a trip down the Yellow River, including stops in Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henan and Shandong provinces, the Loess Plateau and the Ningxia Hui and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions.

"I could feel the magic of the water which has brought life and wealth to everywhere it passes through before vigorously pouring into the Bohai Bay," he said.

Chinese civilization was the dominant theme of one of his fashion garments. "The decorations and accessories are based on ancient bronze works, silver sheath knives, bronze coins, vitreous enamel vessels and big stone sculptures," he said.

Mark Cheung
Photo by Wen Ximing

Cabbeen

You do not talk about boxing club

By Gan Tian

"Cabbeen" is Yang Ziming's nickname. In 1989 he used the name to start his own male fashion brand which made it to the stage of New York Fashion Week. His 2008 S/S Collection Show "Boxing Club" lit up the runway.

The idea came from Cabbeen's passion for sports. "Actually I was a bronze medalist in the 10th Fujian Provincial Sports Meet in 1992. I've been playing this game for years. This collection came about based on my deep understanding of boxing," Cabbeen said. Small sleeves and collars, belts, and short jeans are all the elements of boxing.

"I didn't only express my enthusi-

asm for sports, but also took pride in the game," he explained, "You can see gold and silver colors blinding your eyes. These also express my passion towards life."

Every visitor attending the show got a boxing glove. "When I designed it, I added more fashion elements to it. When I finished, I suddenly found I had practically relived my past when I was a boxer. Wearing the glove made me feel confident and proud," Cabbeen said.

Cabbeen, 36, was born in Fujian Province. "I was introduced to the fashion industry when I was a kid," he joked. "My family members were all tailors, and I would help them cut and

design during their busiest hours."

He said he designed mainly male clothing only because he was a man who cared much about his style and appearance. "Who said men must give up their style and fashion? I said, no. That's one of the reasons I wanted to focus on the male fashion industry. Women's wear? I think when the time comes, I will try," he said.

Cabbeen, a trendy guy, would fly to Hong Kong to watch a movie until midnight and then return to work. Cabbeen continues to inject masculine ideas and thoughts in the female-dominated fashion world.

Cabbeen
Photo provided by Cabbeen

Seven trends in 2008 spring and summer

By He Jianwei

"Sure those costumes look good on the catwalks, but who would wear those in daily life?"

While many observers may question the many eccentricities of fashion designers, the styles

that light up the stage are still a hint as to what's in store for the next year.

Beijing Today has selected seven upcoming trends in this year's fashion week to save readers the trouble of being creative.



Photos provided by Guo Pei

Latest accessory: children

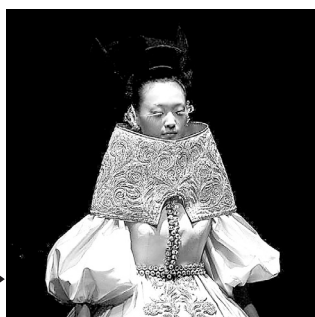
If you have yet to get your one child out of the way, now is the time. At this year's spring and summer shows, the only thing Guo Pei was clutching tighter than her stunning dress was her shiny-haired daughter. Guo wasn't alone in bringing a walking fashion statement – Liang Zi brought her son on stage.

Birds of a feather

For a touch of exotic whimsy, 2008 is the year to go tribal. To complement a turquoise blue gown on her model, Dai-lee Pun added matching-colored feathers as a hair ornament. In Mark Cheung's show, the model wore a pair of white wings on her forehead.

Lengthy lashes

It's time to learn how to tack on those false lashes. Don't hesitate to grab a pink pair. In Guo Pei's show, long pink eyelashes were used to add a *kawaii* element to the model. A set of daring tip-tilted pink eyelashes was the finishing touch on the model for one of Mark Cheung's nature-inspired dresses.



Who needs eyebrows?

If pink lashes aren't daring enough, wipe out your eyebrows and draw on some new ones. Models at Mark Cheung's show brushed on some new eyebrows in wide, white shapes. Aiming to emulate the styling look of the panda, models in Bandi Panda's show tried hide their black eyebrows with anything they could.



Swap belts for bows

Belts are usually the first choice when a designer wants to cinch a model's waist, but a bow knot is a new take. In Qi Gang's show, models tied bow knots on their necks and wrists. In Dai-lee Pun's show, a model tried her best to accentuate the big black bow around her mid section.



Low cuts for both sexes

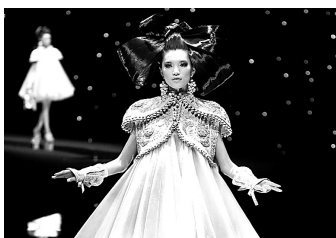
Once more the domain of women, the low cut will be part of the spring and summer men's catalog. A model in Stdaw-ee's show wore a shirt with a deep V-neck, and in the "Qiao-dan Cup" sportswear Design Contest, that cut even descended below the model's chest. Despite the low cuts, man boobs are decidedly not in, so best hit the gym this winter.



CFP Photo

Fit like a glove

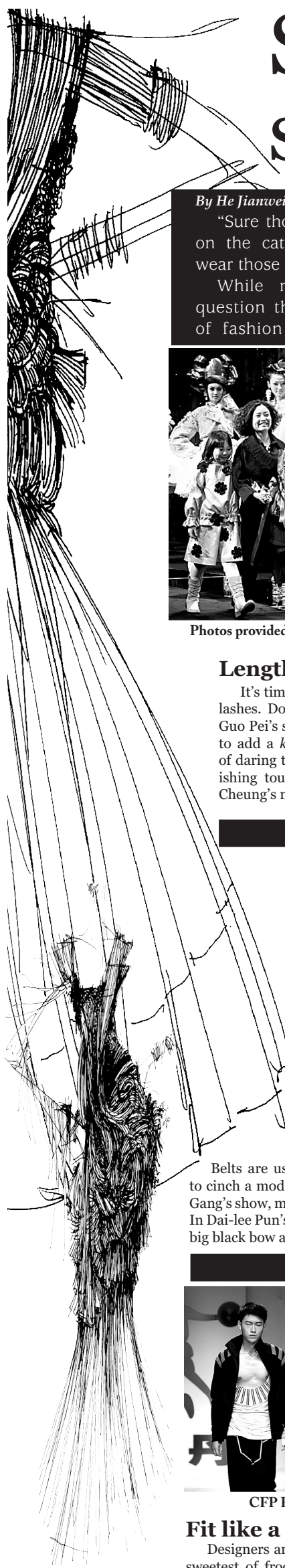
Designers are aiming to add a little edge to the sweetest of frocks with leather and embroidered wrist-length gloves. In Qi Gang's show, models wore shiny black gloves to contrast navy dresses. In Guo Pei's show, the embroidered gloves wrapped models' wrists to create a flower effect.



Photos provided by the Organizing Committee of China Fashion Week

Concept sketch for
Cheung's new line

Photo provided by
Mark Cheung



Tapping the fount of Chinese creativity

By Zhang Nan

The second China (Beijing) International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE) lit up the city for four days and nights before drawing to a close last Sunday. The expo drew participants from around the country, young and old, from art and design circles to sports and animation. ICCIE's main exhibition was designed to introduce the general audience to recent development's in the country's booming cultural and creative industry.

Events like doodling, an industrial tour in the capital, relic auctions and forums on a variety of topics gave people the chance to experience the industry and a glimpse into its future. Famous animators, overseas creative engineers and people driving the industry's development at home gathered for four days to share experiences and discuss plans and suggestions to map out future cultural and creative development in China. This Beijing Today special offers everything you need to know about ICCIE in case you might have missed it.



It's news to you – ICCIE facts

By Gan Tian

- The city's creative industry generated 514 billion yuan of capital as of the end of 2005.
- The term "creative industry" includes nine fields: theater, publishing, media, animated technology, advertising, antiques, design, travel and sport.
- Creative enterprises, especially hi-tech ones based in the Zhongguancun Technology Park, are rewarded with two years of tax exemption after turning a profit.
- The municipal government allocates 500 million yuan to support creative industry efforts.
- A jade and stone sculpture was presented during the expo. The sculpture, two meters high by 82 meters long and weighing 20 tons, was adorned with 1,500 pieces of jade and other precious stones.
- The exhibition in the China International Exhibition Center was open to the public for free.
- "Young" and "international" were this year's buzz words.
 - Graffiti as an art form was shown at the expo for the first time in the expo's history.
 - The exhibition drew 180,000 visitors and 278 experts from around the world who spoke at the expo's 15 forums.
 - Communication University of China, Chinese Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing Film Academy, Beijing Normal University and Capital Normal University participated in the expo.

CFP Photo

Beijing – the next fashion city?

Secrets of movie animation



By Jackie Zhang

When Stuart Little became popular around the world and children wanted the little guy in their homes, few knew the name, Eric Armstrong, Stuart's creator and the man who made him come to life in the movie.

Armstrong has a 17-year career in the videogame industry and has been the animation supervisor for films such as *Stuart Little 1 & 2*, *Hollowman* and *Harry Potter: Sorcerer's Stone and Chamber of Secrets*.

During his presentation at the International Forum on Masters of Animation Design, Armstrong displayed several clips from the films to explain how to make movie animation believable.

"The key for producing characters in movies and games is to make the character believable. People can easily judge whether these characters are believable or not because they know quite clearly how a real human acts in daily life," Armstrong said.

In each film, Eric Armstrong did a lot work with his colleagues to make the characters realistic. When Stuart was driving his small car; when he sitting on a pile of tires, feeling upset and talking to himself; when Sebastian Caine gradually became an invisible man on the operation table writhing in agony, Eric Armstrong and his colleagues tried to make these animated characters mirror human movement.

In *Harry Potter*, animation is mainly used for producing virtual people instead of children in dangerous plots. In the *Sorcerer's Stone*, when Neville Longbottom, Harry's friend in Hogwarts, failed to control his flying broomstick, he ended up hanging on a tower top. While it appeared the child acted out this scene and was really hanging on top of the tower with protection measures in place, "the hanging Neville Longbottom you saw was actually an animated boy," Armstrong said.

What makes a pirate of the Caribbean?

By Gan Tian

Geoff Campbell, digital model shop manager and senior model supervisor at Industrial Light and Magic, gave a speech titled, "Davy Jones: A case study in Creative Character Development." Go see *"Pirates of the Caribbean"* if you don't know the character.

Campbell has worked on animated models for many world-famous movies, including *Son of the Mask*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Galaxy Quest*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Jumanji*, *Jurassic Park* and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*. He explained how he created the figure of Davy Jones at the International Animation Design Masters Forum last Friday. "Modeling supervision always contains three stages," he mentioned, "First we do a pre-production in a 2D concept, then we create a library of facial expressions, and lastly, we shoot the production and affix the faces onto the models."

"Skeletons in the moonlight was the toughest challenge when making *'Curse of the Black Pearl'*," he said. In the movie, some of the pirates appear covered in normal human flesh at night, but when moonlight



strikes, their bodies turn into skeletons. "Johnny Depp made such a handsome skeleton," he said.

Campbell used his models in the presentation, showing the visitors that characters' eye-whites are another obstacle in animated movies. "The whites of the eyes can show the audience the person's character, personality, and can even be connected to their facial expressions," he said. In his work, he first puts a separate eye into a head model, and then lets it move with the facial muscles, thus the whole expression looks natural.

Campbell did not comment on Chinese animation skills. He said he would return in a year to learn from the Olympics. He wanted to let Beijing citizens know that making a Caribbean pirate was no easy feat.



By Jackie Zhang

There is no doubt that cities like Paris, Milan, London and Tokyo are international fashion cities. Where will be the next? Beijing? This has been a question tossed around in the Beijing fashion field and although no conclusions have been reached, expectations and opinions have made it an interesting topic.

At the Forum on the Construction of Fashion Capital, a 2008 Trend Report conducted by the Beijing Institute of Clothing Technology (BICT) was published. Professionals consider it a key step in Beijing approaching the goal of being a fashion city. "It gives people instructive understanding about next season's trends in fashion," Zhang Lanqing from the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Industrial Development said.

But a trend report is not enough of a platform upon which to construct a fashion city. "When fashion is only cared about by professionals in the fashion field, the city cannot be a fashion city at all," Sun Yi, editor in chief of *China Fashion Weekly*, said at the forum.

Ten years ago, when China Clothing Design Expo, the former name of China Fashion Week, launched, only six brands were released. At this year's China Fashion Week, more than 60 brands published their new designs.

In the professional arena, China's fashion industry has developed at the same pace as international fashion cities. The Shanghai Textile Exhibition, which had been held in China regularly for 13 years, has drawn as many as 2,500 participants from countries like Italy, France and Turkey.

"The material samples brought by these companies to China are the same as those taken to Milan or Paris. Clothing companies come to the exhibition and can order materials directly. It is an international operation," Sun said.

In Beijing, there are few famous local brands. Most people can name ESPRIT, but they do not know how many brands actually started in Beijing. "We need to convey to people fashion information and knowledge. Designers should not simply design clothes, but design a lifestyle to change people's lives," Sun said. When the public knows about fashion, its demand and taste will rise as well. It will stimulate designers and the fashion industry.

Xie Ping, a teacher from BICT responsible for the 2008 Trend Report, thought that only an international metropolis could be a real fashion city due to its cultural accumulation and international background. According to the Most Fashionable City ranking done by the Global Language Monitor, Beijing is not in the top 25.

"As a totally fashionable area, Beijing cannot be listed at the top, although we all think that Beijing is an international and energetic city," Xie said. But she didn't deny that Beijing had great potential to be such a city. "We were going to title one page of the report, Beijing, the next fashion city, but finally gave up. We can't be sure which city will be the next one, Beijing, Shanghai or some other city. But I think being an international city is a basic," Xie said.

Voices on the main forum

By Gan Tian

The main forum of the Expo, 2007 China Cultural and Creative Industry Development International Forum, invited big names from both home and abroad.

Creative forces can push society forward. Creation has a close relationship with the cultural industry, and it can change the education level. We invite all people in the world to take part in this industry.

Dimitar Gantchev, director of Creative Industries Division, World Intellectual Property Organization

London is a creative city. It has many creative industries. In the future, this industry will become the most important industry instead of economy and finance. The London 2012 Olympics will bring this industry to a higher level.

Michael Bichard, rector of University of the Arts London

A city can also have its own "city brand." A brand means a promise and a value. If you have a brand, you can join the bigger community. A brand can give you a language, an image and an attitude. At the same time, the city can attract tourists and investors with its brand.

Lois Jacobs, president of Jack Morton Worldwide

Many times people ask, why is it Broadway? Actually, Broadway has many art forms, including musicals, designers and others. It is a combination of different art forms. It indeed is a successful cultural industry. A successful industry needs the whole environment to work along with it.

Simone Genatt, Executive producer of Broadway Asia

I directed a play which lasted eight hours. It totally messed up the concept of audience and stage: the audience was sitting in the middle and the play was staged around them. The audiences was seated in pivoting chairs to follow the action.

Stan Lai, famous Taiwanese playwright and movie director

Colorful rings representing life



Beijing Youth Daily staff become "Lords of the Rings."

Photo by Jia Ting

By Gan Tian

The *Beijing Youth Daily* had its own special stage at No 1519 of Hall 1. Their interpretation of the five Olympic rings attracted visitors' attention.

Yuan Xin, a local artist, made a blue ring. It represented the human spirit of exploration. He painted many different signatures, marks and signs on the ring. "Some white dots are planets in the universe," Yuan said, "I hope that people will always search for truth in the universe."

Xian Li and Ju Lin, the art designers at *Beijing Youth Daily*, made the black ring. They invited all of their colleagues to leave their thumbprints on the ring to represent honesty.

The red ring was designed like the sun and visitors could see the sunshine on this ring. Chen Zhuo, the artist said, "The sun also represents blood. This is the true meaning of life. We accept others' help and we have to return it."

A group of clouds made of cotton appeared on the yellow ring, representing Chinese fortune. "White clouds mean fortune and luck. They are also a symbolic element in Chinese painting," Huang Yan, the artist, said, "Our people should be as pure as the clouds."

Many stripes, thick and thin, were carved into the green ring. It represented the city's architecture. However, by carving it on the green colored ring, the artists, Lai Shengyu and Yang Xiaogang, wanted to tell the visitors that they were environmentalists. "Environmental protection does not only rest in words. We have to do our best to devote ourselves to it," Yang said.

Also, 72 round palettes were erected for the visitors to leave their marks. Beijing Youth Daily prepared 190 small palettes to replace them. The media group has been taking part in the Expo for two years, showing its optimistic attitude to the citizens with its "rings" concept.

Dreamworld

By Gan Tian

Hall 8B, the Animation and comics hall in the International Exhibition Center, attracted children more than anywhere else during the Expo. It was decorated with images from hundreds of comics, computer games and cartoons.

One of the big highlights was animated versions of the four classical Chinese literary works: *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Journey to the West*, *Outlaws of the Marsh* and *Dream of the Red Chamber*.

A demo of *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* was broadcast at the corridor. Many scenes, including the palaces, ancient buildings, war fields and villages, were all rendered in 3D. The camera lens showed many angles from great heights to capture the epic scenes. Characters were tailored exactly to Chinese people's concepts — Liu Bei was thin and had a calm face, Zhang Fei was rude and bold and Guan Yu sported his signature beard.

Professional caricatures were another attraction that surprised and delighted many visitors. In one cubicle, visitors could sit in a chair with an artist opposite them. The artist then combined the person's facial characteristics with his imagination to produce a caricature of the person.

Computer technology is something that must be mentioned when it comes to animated films. A 10-meter screen was erected in the middle of the hall to broadcast animated concerts. Chairs were arranged for the audience to enjoy the music. There was even a cartoon version of the popular song, "As Long As You Love Me."

"Chinese cartoon makers are as good as those who work for Disney and Japanese animation studios. What we need right now is a mature market to promote our own business," Shi Shukui, the manager of the Beijing Glorious Animated Company, said. Strolling through Hall 8B, every visitor was reliving their youth. Chinese cartoon enterprises, indeed, are quickly rising to international level.



Modern VS traditional, international VS Chinese

Regional folk cultures shine at expo



Guzheng introduces Tibetan music.

CFP Photos

By Huang Daohen

Handcrafted blankets, shadow plays, clay figurines and paper cuttings. Compared to avant-garde electronic products at the cultural and creative expo, these traditional hand-made crafts featuring strong ethnic and geographical characteristics were winners.

The main hall had cultural specialties from different regions of China grouped by province or city. The exhibits highlighted the principals of how these images became recognized brands and served as a draw for tourists and locals.

Spectators got a sensory impression of a brand or city by viewing lively on-the-spot demonstrations.

Tibetan culture

Tibetan customs are a favorite during the expo. The Tibetan pavilion, with its distinctive ethnic characteristics, profound cultural connotations and lively exhibitions, attracted many visitors.

This time, the Tibetan exhibitor brought its two national non-material cultural heritages: the production of Tibetan Jiangzi pads and Gesar ballad art. In the Jiangzi pad-producing area, curious audiences queued, eager to learn blank weaving from a Tibetan girl. The Tibetan Gesar ballad art performing artist was also surrounded by visitors.

Although most of them knew little about Tibet, visi-

tors listened carefully to the entire song. "Cultural creativity should have new ideas, but we should also not lose our traditional culture. Traditional arts inherited by generations should not be edged out by technology," an elderly local resident, Liang Yujun, said.

Jilin: experience the guzheng

At the Jilin Booth, the experience area themed "Learning guzheng in ten minutes" has also become a hot spot. Under the guidance of a professional, ordinary people can play a song on the guzheng as long as you sit there and practice for a few minutes.

According to Li Hong, one of the working staff at the scene, the zither experience activity attracted thousands of visitors during the four-day expo, mostly young women. But there was no lack of men. "The skill of guzheng playing is one of the necessities for success in ancient China. I think that's why male visitors also want to try," Li said.

Local Beijing scene

Beijing, as the host city for the event, had the advantage of highlighting cultural specialties district by district. The Xuanwu district exhibition area, for example, organizes folk artists to demonstrate traditional Beijing arts. The area, with Tianqiao as its cultural heart, is a cultural hub for folk artisans and the locale where they earn their livelihood.



Wearing basketball court on your body is one of the new 2008 fashions.

2008 sports-wear designs a slam dunk

By Gan Tian

Though the Li-Ning Center is far from central Tongzhou District, its inconvenient location did little to stop fans and designers from showing up for last Friday's Li-Ning International Sportswear Design Contest.

Hosted by the ICCIE committee and the Beijing Clothing and Textile Trade Association, the contest drew designers from five countries. After three months of preliminary contests, 28 young designers were selected to visit the capital and show off their clothes and shoes.

Creativity belongs to every field and combining sport function and fashion sense is challenging. The Li-Ning designers rose to the challenge with their 2008 sportswear lineup.

For next year, "mix and match" will be the mantra of sports fashion, Raymond Au, 41, from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, said.

"Sportswear is an art, and fashion thrives on creativity," Amano Masaru, 43, a professor from Musashino Art University, said. For Masaru, creativity is an inseparable part of the sportswear design field.

A sports vest on display was the best example of Masaru's idea. The vest was designed to resemble a basketball court, with orange flooring and white lines printed on the front. The matching hat was based on the basket.

Fashion and sport don't have to be opposites. With a little creative magic and a stick of deodorant, you can still look styling on the court.



A graffiti artist prepares to take a splash in his chalk pool.

Industrial tourism seeing a boom

By Jackie Zhang

A recent two-day industrial tourism program gave Beijingers a chance to see how a former industrial base can be transformed into a creative art zone and tourism destination.

In some western countries, industrial tour of destinations like Volkswagen, Toshiba and the US Mint are popular and can draw thousands of visitors every day. In China, industrial tourism is still new. Currently, the Haier Group, Tsingdao Brewery Group and Beijing Huiyuan Beverage and Food Group offer industrial tourism service.

The days featured two tour programs. The first went to Jiuchang Art Factory, 798 District, D Park, Left-Right Art District and Songzhuang in Tongzhou. The second route sent visitors to see companies Beijing White Collar Fashion, Beijing Dragon Seal Wines, Beijing Eve Fashion and Lohas No 35 Creative and the Cultural Industry Garden, which were carved out of deserted factories.

Jiuchang Art Factory was founded in May 2005. Today, it hosts dozens

of domestic and foreign art institutions, and has become the residence of many artists. University professors and painters have opened studios in it after returning from abroad.

Its environs are adorned with hanging black spider sculptures, a red sculpture of Venus, a water tower and galleries built on the water.

Alice Liu, 50, a long-time resident now over 50, was surprised to see the Chaoyang Wine Factory turned into an art district. "I came to see what the converted old factory would look like. It's impressive," she said.

"The industrial tourism can help to launch a large-scale tourism program in the future," Chang Qing, deputy director general of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Industrial Development, said.

"By informing Beijingers about industry developments in Beijing and showing them the transformation of former industrial areas, they can learn more about changes in culture, life and the economy," Chang said.



No surface is safe! CFP Photos

It is graffiti show time

By Gan Tian

This year, graffiti appeared in the China (Beijing) International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo for the first time. The expo brought this underground art indoors as one of the exhibition highlights.

The organizers stationed a giant white wall outside Hall 1 for graffiti artists from all over the country to show off their skills on Thursday. Their designs were seen by as many as 200,000 expo visitors.

This year, the featured graffiti works were themed on the Olympics. One of the paintings featured an Olympic-size swimming pool with the five Olympic rings in the water. The detail was so meticulous that, from a distance, it could be mistaken for a real pool.

"This painter was a genius to add water here. It makes me want to adopt more Olympic ideas in my own works," Wang Zhizhi, 25 years old, a graffiti painter who took part in the exhibition, said. Wang's own wall features sports.

Many graffiti artists incorporated Chinese elements like a red-and-white Beijing Opera mask. Even Chinese ink and wash painting skills were used - mountains, lakes, forests and villages harkened back to the great styles and traditions of the past.

The activity and the following exhibition aimed to put a positive spin on the urban art form. "Graffiti painters are usually very independent and eager to express their own thoughts," Liu Yueshu, 25, an artist, said. "Still, we have to play by society's rules in respect to where we place our works. The committee did us a huge favor in letting expo-goers see our art isn't destructive."



Forgotten factories are becoming hot spots of travel and art.

Photo by Jia Ting



Poster of Lust, Caution

About the film

The story is adopted from a short story in Eileen Chang's *Sejie*. In World War II-era Shanghai, Wong Chia Chi (Tang Wei) is a Chinese college student who becomes involved in a drama club after meeting Kuang Yu Min (Wang Leehom), a charismatic classmate. While Wong is happy performing on the stage, Kuang asks her to take on a very dangerous role in real life. She is to transform herself into Mrs Mak and befriend the wife (Joan Chen) of a major Japanese collaborator, Mr Yee (Tony Leung), only to ensnare him so Kuang and his cohorts can kill him.

However, the plot fails, but after several years, Kuang re-enters Wong's life, whereupon he asks her to resume the deadly mission.

Shanghai

Shanghai is more business-driven and less culturally-focused than Beijing. The film provides a new view of the city aside from its night-clubs, food and shopping. Most scenes in *Lust, Caution* were shot in Xinchang, a border town outside Shanghai proper and a man-made Shanghai Nanjing Xilu in Shanghai Film Shooting Base.

Spot 1: Shanghai Majestic Theatre

Scene: Wong Chia Chi moves back to Shanghai and meets one of her classmates when she goes to the theater to see a movie

The Shanghai Majestic Theatre, built in 1941, lies on Jiangning Road, West Nanjing Ave. The Chinese name of the theater means "beautiful jade without flaw," and it used to be treated as "No 1 in Asia" by people both inside and outside China.

The theater is a well-known historical building, graceful and unique, which blends modern and ancient styles. It has a good reputation for hosting large-scale operas, ballets, music or dance performances and plays. Before and after liberation, famous Peking Opera artists like Mei Lan Fang performed in it. In recent years, it has hosted many acts from all over China and beyond

Where: 66 Jiangning Lu, Shanghai

Tel: 021 - 6217 4409, 6217 2813



Tour with caution when lusting over new film

Lust, Caution, director Ang Lee's latest flick, stirred a lot of controversy in town when it arrived with most of its erotic scenes cut. The film garnered an NC-17 rating when reviewed by the Motion Picture Association of America for its graphic sexual content. The director's popularity has pushed some fans to fly to Hong Kong to view the uncut film, and on the way explore some tours through its shooting locations in Hong Kong and Shanghai.



Tang Wei (right) and Tony Leung (left) in a scene from *Lust, Caution*



Xinchang

Spot 2: Xinchang

Many scenes were shot in Xinchang, including when Kuang Yu Min is bothered by prostitutes at a hostel in Malaysia, when Wong Chia Chi waits for Mr Yee at a cafe and when a group of Wong Chia Chi's drama club members take the tram on a rainy day. Ang Lee rented the entirety of Xinchang for a month to shoot the scenes.

Local museum

Xinchang was a short name for Xin Yan Chang (the new salt place). Most of its residents made their living in the salt trade. Trade was successful, and many of the residents were quite well-off. To learn more about Xinchang's history, the best place to visit is the local museum. The town's elderly people are more than happy to tell tourists the tales of the town.

Memorial Arch and arch bridge

The town is known for its memorial arches and arch bridges. Although most of them have been renovated, the bridges' history can be traced back to the Ming Dynasty. The bridges create a beautiful, poetic scene with the town's quiet waters. They were constructed over many generations from Yuan to the Qing Dynasty.

Where: Building 17, Huading Dasha, 2368, Zhongshan Xilu

Tel: 021 - 6426 5555

Spot 3: Shanghai Film Shooting Base

Scene: Shanghai Nanjing Xilu was a famous street known across China in the 1930s. It presented the best of the country's fashion developments.

The film base was built with an investment from the Shanghai Film Group Corporation and is an ideal place for shooting, sightseeing and culture communication. The park features many sets like "Nanjing Road in the 30's," "Shanghai traditional houses," "Downtown Shanghai in old times," "European style architecture," "Suzhou Creek," "Church," "Peace Plaza" and "Old Shanghai bridge." The sets have large sound stages, costume and prop warehouses, a film library and screening room.

The studio also has a trolley, an exhibition of SFS Costumes and Props Selection, a race course and an old Shanghai street show. Shanghai Film Shooting Base is a destination for more people than just production crews and tourists, and draws in teenagers looking for a glimpse into the past.

Continued on page 21 ...

CFP Photos



Shanghai Film Shooting Base

... continued from page 20

Hong Kong

Spot 1: The University of Hong Kong

Scene: Wong Chia Chi and Kuang Yu Min are among the students who had to flee to Hong Kong because of the war. Many students had to use classrooms from the University of Hong Kong for class. The scene when many Chinese students raise their hands and shout "China cannot perish" was shot here.

In any movie featuring Hong Kong, there has to be at least one scene shot in a university.

Built in 1911, the University of Hong Kong is one of the most famous in the Far East. Many buildings of the university are declared monuments, with the oldest being the main building, which was initially its only one. The main building is spacious and symmetric, and features granite, renaissance-style columns and a tower with four turrets on the top.

Other noteworthy sites include the Hung Hing Ying Building, the historic Eliot Hall, the Tang Chi Ngong Building, the University Museum and the Art Gallery, which has a rich collection of cultural artifacts and art masterpieces. The University Hall was built in a blend of Tudor and Gothic architectural styles and is used for male student accommodations.

Author Eileen Chang reportedly stayed here in 1939, but returned to Shanghai after Hong Kong was invaded by the Japanese.

Spot 2: Repulse Bay

Scene: Mr Yee and Wong's first date was in a Repulse Bay hotel. In the movie, Mr Yee said the restaurant had bad food and few customers, and was most suitable for a chat ...

Repulse Bay, located in the south of Hong Kong, is the most spectacular bay in the region. Its name comes from a 19th century battle in which the British army repelled a pirate attack. Today, Repulse Bay is a luxurious residential area for dining, relaxation and aquatic activities.

The long-stretching beach has clear blue water and soft, golden sand. With water temperatures ranging from 16 C to 26 C year round, it's a mecca for locals and visitors wanting to escape the heat.

Swimming is obviously popular, and the bay is outfitted for safety with shark prevention nets and floating platforms. During the summer, lifeguards are on duty.

Besides aquatic activities, there are extensive facilities for visitors. Barbecue racks are available under the shade near the beach. The area is dotted with hotels, supermarkets and cafes. A lighthouse near the beach is a popular place to take photos or watch the sun set. The Zhenhai Tower Park, built in a traditional Chinese style, is located near the beach. Huge statues of the Queen of Heaven and the Goddess of Mercy sit in front of the park.

Spot 3: Pottinger Street

Scene: Wong Chia Chi and other drama club members walk the street to celebrate their performance on the stage.

Pottinger Street, better known locally as Stone Step Street, is one of the oldest streets in Hong Kong. The street was constructed in 1858 and named after the island's first governor.

The whole street, built on a hill, is made of large stones, some of which have been flattened to make walking easier. Many stalls line the street to sell ribbons, hair accessories and traditional clothing.

Spot 4: Tsim Sha Tsui

Scene: Ms Yee wanted to make a qipao and asks Wong Chia Chi to go with her. Wong suggests they go to Tsim Sha Tsui.

Tsim Sha Tsui is located at the tip of the Kowloon peninsula and is best reached by the scenic Star Ferry across the harbor from Central. Aside from jaw-dropping shopping and dining options, Tsim Sha Tsui is one of Hong Kong's most diverse and exhilarating locales. There is something for everyone here, from the bright lights of streets that never sleep to tranquil parks and architectural reminders of colonial times.

If you are after brand name products, go to the Sun Plaza



Repulse Bay



Clock Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui



Tram in Hong Kong

and Park Lane Shoppers Boulevard.

Of course, if shopping is not your thing and you prefer a more cultural experience while in Hong Kong, Tsim Sha Tsui has the highest concentration of cultural centers and museums in the area.

The Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Space Museum and Hong Kong Cultural Center are all situated here, providing a chance to taste the exciting culture and science in Hong Kong.

Spot 5: Trams

Scene: After the drama club finishes its performance, Kuang Yu Min and Wong Chia Chi return home via tram.

Trams are one of the oldest means of transportation in Hong Kong, having served the area since 1904. There is no better way to enjoy Hong Kong's scenery than on the top floor of a tram.

(By Wei Ying)

CFP Photos



The University of Hong Kong



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Bookworms seldom bite dog-eared books

By Gan Tian

My friend Mike Matsloff has read many books. I had the good fortune to visit his apartment last week, and I finally saw how many books he has.

He has a room especially designed to store his collection. Five bookshelves were erected in the middle of the room giving me the impression of walking into a mini-library. "You are really a bookworm," I said with great admiration, "I wish I had time to read as many books as you do." I was sure this time I had not made any Chinglish mistakes, as I pretty well knew that the word "bookworm," or *shuchong* in Chinese, means the same thing in English.

"Yes, I am, but I have a distinct reading habit," Matsloff turned around, fondling one of his new books on the shelf, "I am very selective with my reading, and I read only new books."

"You mean, you never read wrinkled, old books, ever?" I wanted to use a vivid word. After a half-second's consid-

eration, I came up with "wrinkled books." I noticed Matsloff's puzzled expression right away, and at that moment, I knew I had made a mistake in diction.

"What do you mean by wrinkled books?" he wanted to laugh, "I guess you mean old books?"

"Yes, I wanted to confirm that you never read old dirty books?"

He burst into laughter, saying, "I understand what you mean now. The old book has some dirty pages, so you call it a wrinkled book? That is not so nice of you! You know what, we are even more derogatory, we call it a dog-eared book!"

Dog-eared! What a colorful way to describe an old book! I suddenly imagined a dusty, old book lying in front of me, with several pages twisted.

"Now you understand? Even if I am an incurable bookworm, I never chew up dog-eared books! I love to read new books!"

Now I understood that a book with dog ears was not a good thing, either!

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

2007 Xukiao

CFP Photo

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor Zhu Shida

1. The travel car I took an entire hour to cross the bridge

The writer means to say two things here. First, "I took the travel car." Secondly, "It took the travel car an entire hour to cross the bridge." The two can be combined: "It took the travel car which I took an entire hour to cross the bridge." Obviously, this is not good English rhetorically. For

a better expression, it must be, "It took my travel car an entire hour to cross the bridge."

2. To push restaurants become environmentally friendly

In English, there are only a few verbs that may be followed by infinitives without the inclusion of "to." However, the verb "to push" is definitely not in this category. So, you have to say, "to push restaurants to become envi-

ronmentally friendly."

3. One of the girl's 19 birthday

Firstly, you have to say, "the girl's 19th birthday." If you say, "one of the girls," you can hardly use it in a possessive form for a particular person. The possessive usage in this case is wrong. Here, you may say either "a girl's 19th birthday" or "a party for the 19th birthday of one of the girls."

Native speaker Joe Edwards

1. The travel car I took an entire hour to cross the bridge

With English this bad, you should never be allowed to cross the bridge! You are attempting to express two ideas here in one sentence; one revolving around your vehicle and the other, your negative situation. To combine the two thoughts into one effective sentence, it should look like this: "It took my travel car an entire hour to cross the bridge." Now this sentence is no longer a

bridge over troubled grammar.

2. To push restaurants become environmentally friendly

To leave this sentence in this form makes you sound like Tonto giving an order to The Lone Ranger! The omission of one little word is making you sound Native American, the word, "to." You push someone or something to do something. After the verb, "to push," you must include the word, "to." This sentence should read, "To push restaurants to become

environmentally friendly." Thank you, Kemo Sabe.

3. One of the girl's 19 birthday

First of all, in this sentence, you must add a "th" to the numeral making it 19th. Secondly, you can't use the possessive form because you're being fairly generic by not mentioning any particular girl. Was it Bambi, Wendy or Sissy who had the birthday? If not, saying, "the 19th birthday of one of the girls," would be correct. You may now blow out your candles.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Herd extracts

By Derrick Sobodash

Bravo China!

These candies are the best idea this Chinglish writer has seen in the last several years. In foreign countries, mixed meat extract is unavailable. You have chicken bouillon and beef bouillon, but few other options and never in combination.

While cucumber-flavored potato chips should be approached with suspicion, herd extract seems like a great idea – it would be like being able to drink every animal at once. Imagine drinking chicken, duck, lamb, cow, goat, donkey, camel and, well, it's difficult to imagine what else is in the herd. According to this bag, there are at least six animals to go.

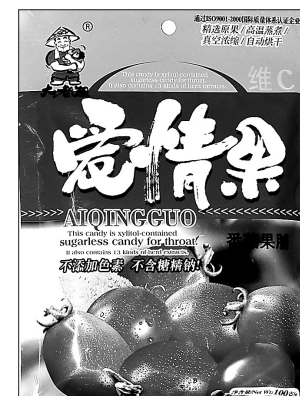
Maybe it's monkeys. I can't picture herds of monkeys on the grasslands, but monkey extract would be the best thing since Hufu, the vegetarian human flesh substitute to satiate one's cannibalistic cravings.

And then they had to go and mix this nectar with what appears to be loquats or cherry tomatoes. Sigh, and it seemed the marketing gods were finally on the right track.

All right. That is the end of this week's sarcasm. I promise.

Clearly, when this bag says "It also contains 13 kinds of herd extracts," the marketers were probably trying to say "herb" extracts. In English, we normally say "herbal extracts," and depending on how the extracts are used, it may be better to say "flavored with" rather than "contains."

The top line is a bit mangled. It describes the candies as being "xylitol-contained." Xylitol is the sugar substitute featured in many chewing gums. The structure



here implies the candies are contained within xylitol.

Atomic impossibilities aside, xylitol probably doesn't work quite the same as sugar and cannot be cooked to a hard ball stage to make crunchy candy coating. If it can, then someone needs to start mass producing *tanghulu* that are "good for your teeth."

More likely, they wanted to say that the candies contain xylitol, in which case they got it backwards: "This sugarless candy contains xylitol." The throat part on the end is confusing. If the candy is actually a throat lozenge as opposed to the common hard variety, then try swapping "candy" for "throat lozenge."

While products named in *pinyin* aren't very useful for most English speakers, we'll let Aiqingguo slide. If translated literally, it would come out as something like "passion fruit," which is a decidedly different beast.

In Chinese, passion fruit is called *baixiangguo*, or the 100-flavor fruit. These candies come up 87 flavors shy. Besides, passion fruit's 100 flavors probably don't include "herd extracts."

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RANCH RESORT

Friday, November 16

Exhibition

Toy – Roberto Arcaute Solo Exhibition

Where: The Fifth Element Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until November 17

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 1338

Miroslav Tichy Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Art Now Gallery, 12 Beijing Workers Stadium (at the East Gate of Beijing Workers Stadium), Chaoyang

When: Daily Moon – 7 pm, until January 1

Admission: Free

Tel: 6551 1632

Movie

Hell

Hell is a girl coming from a well-off family. She spends every night in the bars of Paris and only moves in jet-set circles. But, in a world where everyone just relies on appearance, she feels isolated, until she meets Andea. Yet, instead of helping each other to escape this fashionable world, the two teenagers isolate themselves from the rest of the world and live together in an empty flat for six months.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

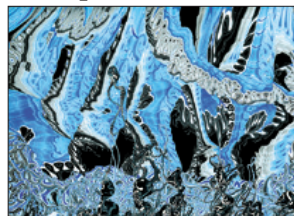
Tel: 6553 2627



Saturday, November 17

Exhibition

Non-Present – Group Exhibition



Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until January 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 5747

Growth Rings of Light – Li Xinhui Oil Painting Solo Exhibition

Where: Creation Space, 22-23 Guanyintang Art Avenue,

Wangsiying, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 7 pm, until November 29th

Admission: Free

Tel: 6737 0977



Movie

Bedlam

It tells the story of a former footballer, a lady manager, three exhausted brain-champions, a wife whose money was stolen by one of her lovers and the lover himself. A hunt

begins seeking a bag containing special photos.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

Outdoor

Great Party for Chinese and Foreign Children

The party aims to boost Chinese culture and enhance culture exchanges between Chinese and foreign children. The party includes group discussion and games during which children from China and abroad will make friends with each other.

Where: Pakistan Embassy School, 1 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 10 am – Noon

Tel: 6533 1211 (Four Seas Chinese Culture Center)

Sunday, November 18

Exhibition

Un-collectivism – Exhibition of Wuhan Post-70's Arts



Where: Soka Art Center, B103 Sky & Sea Business Plaza, 107 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Daily 10 am – 9 pm, until November 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 8401 2377, 8401 5810

Viewing Emptiness

Shi Zhongying continues to shape a contemporary Buddhist aesthetic in his new works. His new paintings elaborate on his sculpture, translating his meticulous, metallic forms to shadows on canvas.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until December 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

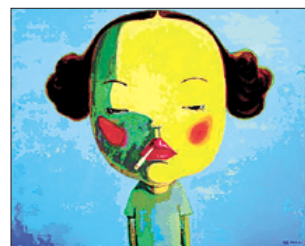
Digital Soul

Where: Art Seasons, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 6:30 pm, until December 9

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 1900



Outdoor

Zhengding & Yujia Stone Village

The village is really unique despite the fact that we have many ancient villages or townships in Beijing, Shanxi or Yunnan. The "old China" life and customs here has been kept intact.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for coach transportation.

When: 8:30 am – 6:30 pm next day, November 17-18

Cost: 1,500 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in December

Music

Groove Coverage Beijing Concert

Who: Groove Coverage
 Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 2

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Handel Messiah by International Festival Chorus

Who: International Festival Chorus and Martin Ennis

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 8

Admission: 80-320 yuan

Richard Clayderman & Guoyue Tianjiao New Year Piano Concert

Who: Richard Clayderman

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 27

Admission:

180-1,680 yuan

New Year Concert: From Barcelona To Beijing

Who: The Principado De Asturias Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

December 30-31

Admission:

80-2,008 yuan

Drama

Musical Jin Sha

Who: Directed by San Bao

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

December 28-29

Admission:

80-880 yuan

Dance

Moscow Theater Ballet Troupe China Tour

Who: Moscow Theater Ballet Troupe

Where: Minorities Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, December 21-24

Admission:

80-880 yuan

Tap Dance

Christmas Shoes

Who: Chicago American Stamp Champion Team

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 21-23

Admission:

80-1,280 yuan

Madame Butterfly by Northern Ballet Theater

Who: Northern Ballet Theater (UK)

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

December 21-23

Admission:

120-1,680 yuan

(By Li Jing)